

Dozens feared dead or injured as more patrol boats are hit

US launches new attacks on Libyans

● US warplanes are presumed to have inflicted heavy casualties in further attacks on Libyan patrol boats and an anti-aircraft site on the mainland
● The Soviet Union warned the US that the clash with Libya was a breach of international law and could escalate into a wider conflict
● Libya, calling on support from its Arab allies, threatened to turn the Mediterranean into a "sea of blood"
● Legal experts in London said the law was on Washington's side in the dispute over the Gulf of Sirte

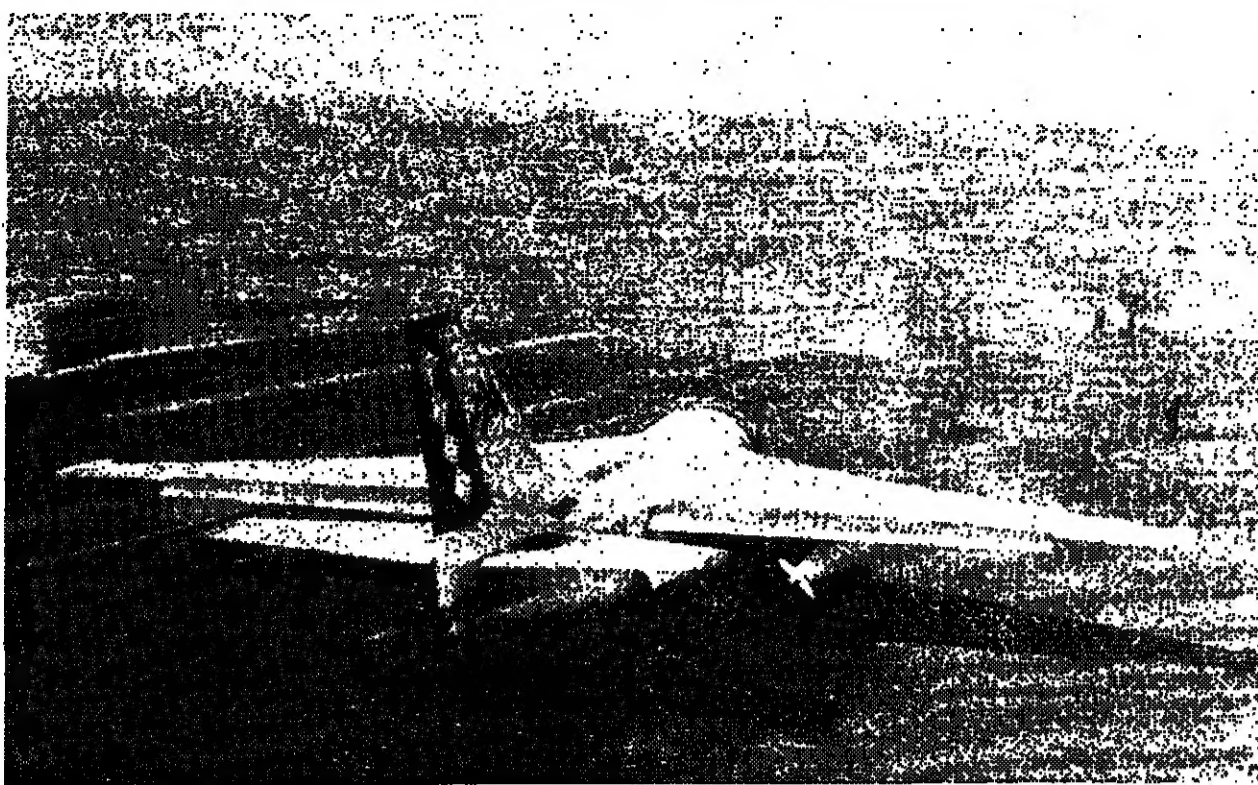
From Christopher Thomas, Washington

United States warplanes and ships struck a Libyan anti-aircraft site again yesterday in escalating fighting in and around the disputed waters off the Libyan coast. At least two more Libyan missile patrol boats were destroyed, bringing the total to four, almost certainly resulting in dozens of deaths and injuries.

Two A-7 Corsair light bombers from the US aircraft carrier Saratoga, attacked radar equipment guiding Soviet-built SA-5 missiles at Sirte on the Libyan coast, the Pentagon said. The radars were replacements for another radar system that was knocked out in the first American air strike on Monday, according to Mr Casper Weinberger the Defence Secretary.

The US had no immediate damage assessment, but Mr Weinberger said he expected Libya to continue replacing destroyed radar parts with Soviet-shipped stocks. He added that a fifth missile-armed patrol craft may have been severely damaged.

A senior Pentagon source said that although the military exercises that began off Libya on Saturday night were due to end on April 1, the ships may withdraw as early as tomorrow. Mr Weinberger hinted that manoeuvres may end earlier, saying that "the exact



An American jet fighter prepares to take off during the exercises in the Gulf of Sirte which led to the clashes with Libya.

Kremlin's fear of escalating conflict

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The Soviet Union yesterday delivered a strong warning that the US military conflict with Libya was a breach of international law and a provocation which could quickly escalate into a conflict extending beyond the Mediterranean and threaten world security.

In a Kremlin display of solidarity with Colonel Gaddafi, Mr Vladimir Lomeiko, the chief Foreign Ministry spokesman, told a special press conference that it was the duty of all peace-loving states "to take steps to support the sovereign Libyan state". But he stopped short of pledging immediate military aid to Tripoli.

Moscow's next moves would depend on "the subsequent steps to be taken by the US Administration".

When pressed by Western correspondents, Mr Lomeiko refused to say whether any Soviet personnel had been wounded in the US attacks.

There was speculation among East European diplomats that President Chadi Benjedid of Algeria, who arrived here for a scheduled visit yesterday, delivered a personal message from Colonel Gaddafi to Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, whom he met in the Kremlin last night.

The diplomatic sources said President Chadi had been in telephone contact with Tripoli before his departure.

Thatcher rebuttal of shares claim delights Tories

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Cheered on by her backbenchers, the Prime Minister yesterday denounced as scandalous, scurrilous and outrageous the allegations in a Sunday newspaper that she had dealt in shares in an Australian company.

In the Commons at Question Time, Mrs Thatcher, in her most combative mood, declared that she had scrupulously observed the long-standing conventions governing the holding of shares by ministers.

She said: "Under these conventions there is nothing which requires me, on assuming office, to dispose of my shares nor to transfer them into the name of a trust or investment managers."

After repudiating on Monday night the central allegation of *The Mail on Sunday* report that she had dealt in her own name in shares in Broken Hill Proprietary, Mrs Thatcher decided to take head-on the opposition's criticism of her disclosure that it was not until last year that she transferred the shares to a firm of investment managers to administer them on her behalf.

MPs had asked why she did not set up a trust immediately on becoming Prime Minister, which has been the practice with other ministers.

The verdict of her backbench supporters last night was that she had successfully and satisfactorily dealt with the issue. It was noted by MPs that neither Mr Neil

Shares in record £5.5 bn plunge

By David Smith and Richard Thomson

Shares lost £5.5 billion on the Stock Exchange yesterday in the biggest ever fall in share values as hopes of an early cut in base rates receded and the Libyan clashes provoked heavy selling. The pound fell 2.8 cents to \$1.4615, but held up against other currencies in spite of oil price weakness.

The sterling index, measured against a basket of currencies, closed 0.5 points down at 75.4.

The failure of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to agree on output restrictions to stabilize world oil prices continued to affect financial markets in London.

Money market interest rates edged up yesterday morning as the pound opened two cents down against a stronger dollar.

The stock market's response was a wave of selling which produced a 32 point fall in the Financial Times 30-share index by lunchtime. Prices later steadied, but the index ended 29.9 points down at 1,364.7.

Three of the big four clearing banks, meanwhile, announced cuts of between 0.75 and 1 per cent on their mortgage rates. Barclays and Midland announced reductions of 0.75 per cent bringing their home loan rate down to 12.25 per cent from April 1. National Westminster cut its rate by a full percentage point to 12 per cent for new borrowers from today and for existing borrowers from May 1.

Royal wedding with tradition

By Alan Hamilton

Prince Andrew and Miss Sarah Ferguson are to be married by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, in Westminster Abbey on Wednesday, July 23, Buckingham Palace announced yesterday.

The date, only four months away, has been squeezed into an already crowded royal schedule, and fulfils the couple's wish that the wedding should take place in the summer — to get it over with. MPs yesterday asked the Government to declare the day a public holiday.

Although no further details of the wedding have yet been announced — except that it will begin at 11.30am — it is certain to be a public spectacle, with live television coverage and crowds lining the processional route.

The British Tourist Authority said yesterday that, while the wedding was unlikely to have any marked effect on the number of foreign visitors to Britain this year, the long-term effect of worldwide television coverage would be beneficial to the tourist industry, worth more than £6 billion a year.

Westminster Abbey is a return to tradition for royal weddings after the choice of St Paul's by the Prince of Wales because of its greater capacity. The Queen, the Queen Mother, Princess Margaret, Princess Alexandra and Princess Anne were all married there.

The first recorded royal wedding in the Abbey was that of King Henry I to Matilda of Scotland in 1100. Prince Andrew's will be the fourteenth.

Although not favoured for weddings until recent times, the Abbey has witnessed 37 coronations since William the Conqueror took the English crown there in 1066, and is the last resting place of 18 kings and 14 queens.

Finding a suitable day proved difficult. The Queen already has an engagement on July 23, attending an afternoon tea party at St James's Palace in aid of the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund.

The Palace said yesterday that it would have to be changed, probably postponed, but they presumed that the hosts "would not mind in the circumstances".

The Queen is also due to hold investitures on the preceding and following days and to visit the England against New Zealand test match on the Friday. That weekend she is due to take up a week's residence at Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh. In the absence of firm information, speculation will now intensify on the details of the wedding.

Continued on page 2, col 3

Arabs urged to hit US embassies

By Robert Fisk

Summoning political support from its Middle East allies, Libya yesterday launched a propaganda barrage against the American Sixth Fleet, threatening to turn the Mediterranean into "a sea of blood and fire" while calling on Arabs in neighbouring countries to attack US embassies, oil facilities and personnel.

Indeed, if wars were won with words, Colonel Gaddafi of Libya would have fulfilled his pledge to sink the Sixth Fleet.

All day yesterday, the Libyan state radio broadcast the sound of street demonstrations, in Tripoli and Benghazi, and government-sponsored parades in which shrieking young men promised to stage suicide attacks against the Americans.

From Algeria and Syria — and, perhaps more ominously, from Palestinian factions in Damascus — came fierce condemnation of the US Government and the presence of its warships in the Gulf of Sirte.

Libya was less forthcoming with details about the actual engagements in the disputed waters.

It conceded that it had launched missiles "in self-defence" against American aircraft on Monday, claimed to have shot down three of them, but said that an attack by a US jet on a missile base near Sirte had missed its target and left the rockets intact. As usual, therefore, the Libyans felt able to project their actions as a victory.

DPP orders inquiry on Glenholmes warrants

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Director of Public Prosecutions yesterday ordered a disciplinary inquiry into the handling of the extradition warrants for the IRA bombing suspect, Evelyn Glenholmes, which were found to be flawed.

The inquiry, unprecedented in the history of the DPP's office, was announced after attacks from MPs, who accused the officials there of "slipshod incompetence" and "a discreditable botch-up".

It will be held under normal Civil Service regulations and is expected to be headed by the deputy Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr John Wood.

The DPP himself, Sir Thomas Hetherington, QC, would not be involved because if the inquiry led to disciplinary proceedings, it would be for him as the department head to decide on the findings of any tribunal.

Miss Glenholmes, aged 27, was arrested on March 12, in connection with a series of IRA bombings, including the murder of two people in the Chelsea barracks mail bombing, the murder of the bomb disposal expert, Kenneth Howorth, and the Brighton hotel bombing in October 1984.

Dublin police yesterday received another eight new warrants for the extradition of Glenholmes, which were later being examined by Irish lawyers to establish they were not also defective.

Lords ban GLC's final fling

The ban on Greater London Council plans to give £40 million to the Inner London Education Authority as part of its £76 million final fling won the backing of the House of Lords yesterday.

Five Law Lords led by Lord Brandon rejected an attempt by the council to overturn last week's Court of Appeal ruling that the spending was unlawful.

But they have yet to consider plans to give £36 million to voluntary groups to keep them going after the GLC is abolished on Monday.

The hearing continues today.

A-level changes could benefit more students

A reform in A level grading which could give sixth-formers a fairer chance of getting a university place was announced yesterday by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

The change — to take effect from summer 1987 — will affect those who are currently awarded a grade C. At present there is a very narrow range of marks between a grade B and a grade D at A level, and this can make all the difference to whether or not a candidate gains a university place.

In some subjects, such as English literature, the range of marks in a grade C can be as small as three percentage points. That is because grade C is awarded in the bump of a

Redundancies at Telegraph

By Gavin Bell

The Daily Telegraph and the Sunday Telegraph are planning substantial redundancies in printing staff when they move out of Fleet Street in an attempt to eliminate heavy trading losses, Mr Andrew Knight, the company's chief executive announced last night.

Mr Knight could not specify how many would be made redundant by the move, which could be before the end of the year, until the plans had been fully discussed with trade union representatives.

The printing would be transferred to a new plant in West Ferry Road, east London, and to an existing one in Manchester. The editorial, administration and advertising departments would be in a new building expected to be in central London.

It was hoped that printing could begin in East London by September-October.

Mr Knight stressed that the company would continue to recognize the traditional printing trade unions and hoped they would accept what he termed attractive voluntary redundancy terms.

"This is not a sabre-rattling exercise, it is grounded in financial reality," he said. "When we start printing in West Ferry Road we have to have a company which is able to trade at a profit. We have to compete with our competitors in terms of cost and flexibility. We do not expect that our unions will want us to compete at a disadvantage."

Management sources said

THE TIMES

The Times will publish on Good Friday, the only quality national daily newspaper to do so. This has been made possible by the lifting of restrictive practices following the move to Wapping. More copies than usual will be printed, but the demand will be substantial, so readers are urged to place a firm order for The Times with their newsagents now. An order form appears on page 2

The Times Portfolio competition weekly prize of £20,000 can be won on Good Friday rather than Saturday. This is because the Stock Exchange will be closed on Friday and there will be no daily prize on Saturday. Portfolio will resume next Tuesday

Portfolio

Yesterday's prize in The Times Portfolio competition — doubled to £4,000 because there was no winner the previous day — was shared by three readers: Mr S S Hensley, of Cambridge; Mr Stuart Donaldson, of Edinburgh; and Mr George Eve, of Orpington, Kent. Portfolio list page 24; how to play, information service, page 16.

Court ruling

A High Court judge clamped down on procedures for expelling 12 Liverpool Militant supporters

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City watchdog 'given teeth' as Government suffers defeat

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

The Government suffered its second significant defeat on the Financial Services Bill yesterday, reflecting doubts about government assurances on City fraud and the ability of the Director of Public Prosecutions to tackle it.

A Conservative amendment, backed by opposition MPs on the Bill's committee, was carried by 11 votes to 7, to give the proposed new City watchdog, the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), power to launch prosecutions.

Mr Anthony Nelson, Conservative MP for Chichester, who tabled the amendment, said last night that having "unleashed the tiger" by putting the board on to a full legislative footing in a previous vote on March 6, the rebels had now "taken the muzzle off the tiger".

He said: "It has now got the teeth which it needs. The second defeat makes it more difficult for Mr Michael Howard, Under Secretary for Trade and Industry, to carry out his threat to defer reference to the SIB from the Bill when it returns to the Commons for its report stage."

The Bill had restricted prosecuting initiatives to the Sec-

retary of State for Trade and Industry or the DPP, and Mr Howard resisted the new amendment in committee yesterday.

But another of the Conservative rebels, Mr Timothy Yeo, MP for Suffolk South, said: "In the light of recent events, the idea that we can rely on prosecutors who are employed by the Government seems to me to be unwise."

"There has been great concern about the Lloyd's scandals and we cannot face a repetition of those kinds of shortcomings."

The failure of the DPP's office to secure the extradition of Miss Evelyn Glenholmes and its inability to bring some Lloyd's agents to court has clearly upset Conservative MPs.

Mr Brian Sedgmore, Labour MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch, and a member of the committee, said: "We have decided to get tough with the fraudsters."

The other Conservative rebels who voted against the government were Mr Timothy Smith, MP for Beaconsfield, and Mr Robert McCrindle, MP for Brentwood and Ongar.

Holland to return one IRA terrorist

A court in Amsterdam ruled yesterday that only one of the two convicted IRA terrorists arrested in the city last January could be extradited to the United Kingdom.

The court ruled that Brendan McFarlane, aged 34, could be extradited because the act for which he was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1976, a bomb attack on a public house in Belfast which killed five people, could not "in reason" be considered as a means to achieving IRA political ends.

In the case of Gerard Kelly, aged 30, who was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1973 for two bomb attacks in London, the court ruled that those acts were not at the time grounds for extradition under British law.

On the charges of murder and attempted murder against Kelly, the court ruled that the British authorities had supplied insufficient evidence.

The court also ruled that a number of other charges made against Kelly, which would normally lead to extradition, could in his case be construed as being of a political nature.

Both men were serving life sentences in the Maze Prison, Belfast, when they escaped during a mass break-out in 1983.

McFarlane's lawyer immediately appealed against the court's decision to allow his extradition, while the public prosecutor has appealed against the decision not to allow the extradition of Kelly.

New Glenholmes warrants studied

Senior law officers in the Irish Republic yesterday started to study nine new warrants seeking the extradition of Evelyn Glenholmes, the terrorist suspect (Richard Ford writes).

The set of warrants were sent to Dublin to replace those found invalid in a district court, and will be passed to the Garda once the authorities are satisfied they are in order. Until then, the police will not begin a renewed hunt for Miss Glenholmes, aged 29, who has been in hiding since she was driven from the court last Saturday afternoon.

Loyalist attack on Thatcher

The prospect of Unionist leaders re-opening talks with the Prime Minister was virtually ended yesterday as hardline "loyalists" denounced her refusal to suspend the Anglo-Irish agreement.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher coupled a robust defence of the deal with a declaration that the Government was anxious for consultation rather than confrontation, and was prepared to participate in a conference aimed at reaching agreement on devolved government for the province.

In a three-page letter sent to the Unionist leaders, which was released by the Democratic Unionist Party, the Prime Minister rejected Unionist allegations that the agreement represented joint authority and threatened the union.

Mrs Thatcher also rejected their request for talks on the basis that the deal is suspended, but added that the Government was ready to approach its workings in a "sensitive way".

Both Mr James Moynihan, leader of the Official Unionists, and the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the DUP, expressed disappointment at the letter and are expected to consult with their colleagues before drafting a reply.

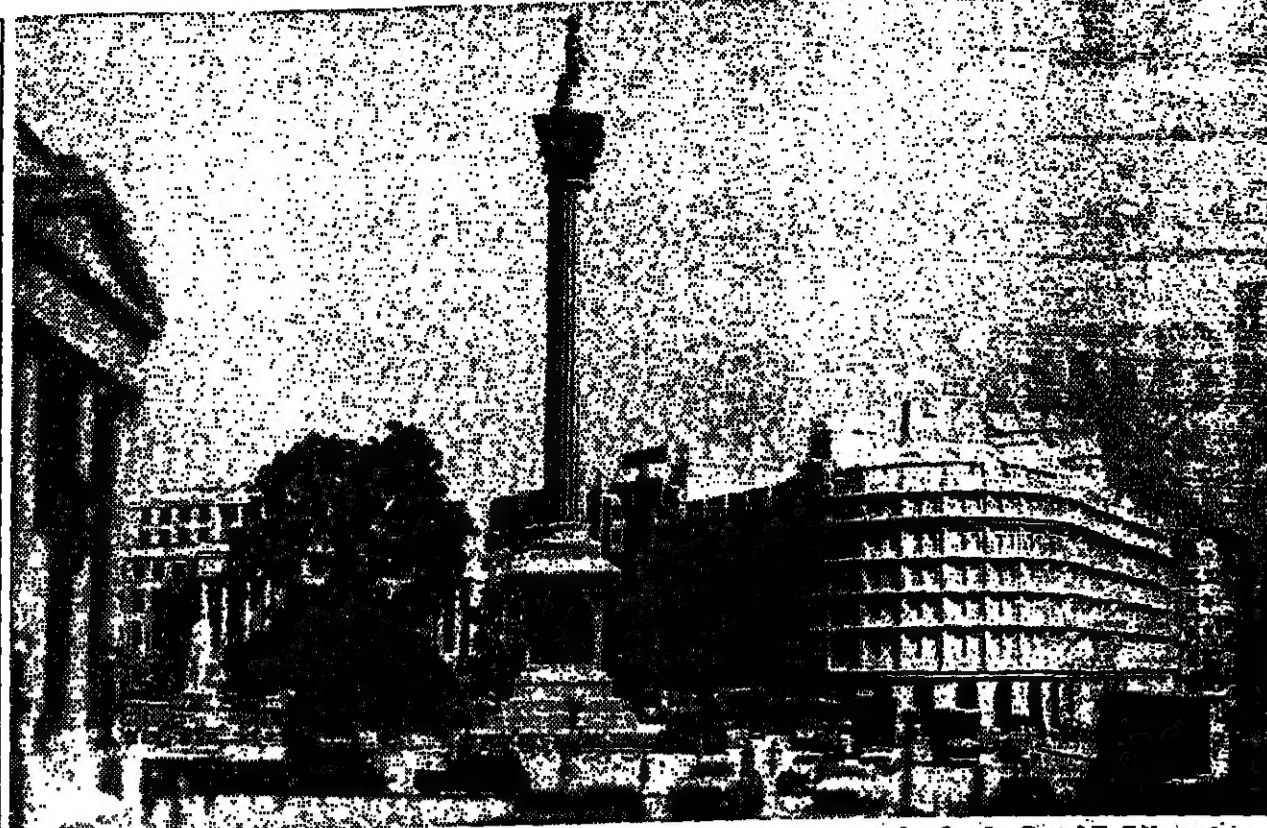
But Mr Paisley went further and accused the Prime Minister of having "worsened" the situation by "slamming the door" on Unionists while in a tantrum. He said she was "the new Simon Fisher of Downing Street".

Two men face bomb charge

Armed police ringed Lambeth Magistrates' Court, south London, yesterday when committal proceedings began against two men appearing on a charge connected with the planting of a bomb outside Chelsea Barracks last November 11.

Patrick McLoughlin, aged 26, unemployed, of Bracken Park, Galloway, Londonderry, and Peter O'Loughlin, aged 26, unemployed, of St Julian's Road, Kilburn, north London, are charged with conspiring with others unknown to cause an explosion likely to "endanger life or cause serious injury to property".

The hearing is expected to last three days.



A model of the design (on right of picture, as seen from the west) chosen yesterday for the Grand Buildings site.

Winning design preserves old lines

By Charles Kervitt, Architecture Correspondent

The competition to design a £30 million redevelopment of the Grand Buildings site at the south-east corner of Trafalgar Square, has been won by Mr Paul Gibson of Stetel Gibson Partnership, London.

The design is, externally, a replica of the present building, originally the Grand Hotel. The new building will give 300,000 sq ft of modern offices around a

central atrium, and two storeys of arched shops around its base facing the Square, the Strand and Northumberland Avenue. It is expected to be finished by 1990.

Professor William Whitfield, chairman of the assessors, said yesterday that the scheme, one of three in a final list from which Land Securities, the developers, had chosen the eventual winner,

fitted well with the square and surrounding streets.

The two runners-up were Mr David Allford of YRM Partnership, and Caroline Miller and James Utting.

There were 287 entries for the competition, announced three years ago.

Mr Gibson said that the new building would be the same height and mass as the present one.

GLC abolition

Jobs for Livingstone aides

By Colin Hughes, Local Government Correspondent

Fewer than 500 staff out of 21,500 employed by the Greater London Council will be made "involuntarily redundant" when the council is abolished next Monday, according to last-minute predictions by the Government's Staff Commission.

Few of those will include the politically controversial appointments which have been a prime target of the GLC's critics, over the past five years of Mr Ken Livingstone's regime.

The only group of political appointees at serious risk are the team of Outreach workers, taken on to work with local groups on GLC campaigns. They have acted, in effect, as paid agents of the ruling Labour group's policy.

The Labour group's plan for "forward funding", which was blocked last week by the Court of Appeal, and is due for hearing by the Lords tomorrow, would create an umbrella organization to fund trade union campaigns.

The aim was to fund Outreach staff posts through the umbrella group, but even if the GLC wins its appeal in the Lords, staff in the grants section will have only a few working hours to sign cheques and send them out. The

chances of forward funding successfully are now small. Some staff have been taken on by nine of the most left-wing Association of London Authorities' boroughs, who are paying out £1 million each to support a research centre.

Most of the others have transferred to successor bodies which continue under post-abolition arrangements, such as the new London Fire and Civil Defence Authority, and the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA).

Appointments to the latter

have been controversial, particularly in the public relations field. Miss Nina Clarke, Mr Livingstone's former personal assistant and public relations adviser, has transferred to do the same job for Mrs Frances Morrell, the left-wing leader of the ILEA.

Mr Bill Bush, Mr Livingstone's former political adviser, has also moved to the ILEA.

Most staff leaving are taking the GLC's favourable early retirement package.

Leading article, page 13

Groups face rundown

Several hundred London voluntary groups face rundown and closure because they will get no more money after the GLC is abolished.

Although many cater for minority interests, these already refused support by boroughs and other bodies taking over GLC responsibilities include four law centres, in Southall, Hillingdon, Paddington, and Notting Dale, the Woodcraft Folk, tenants and residents' associations in Paddington and Bromley, and several child care centres.

The London Voluntary Ser-

vice Council said yesterday that its records showed 76 groups had so far been refused funding. Another 110 had been refused transitional aid, 280 groups were uncertain of their fate.

The GLC's budget this year provided £22 million for grants to voluntary organizations. From next week that figure will be cut to £51 million; £22 million from the London Boroughs Grants Scheme, £16 million in transitional funding, 25 million from London Regional Transport, and £28 million from the Arts Council.

There was a risk that Northavon would become "an arid and ugly suburb of north Bristol", he said.

Call to abolish council

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

Avon County Council should be abolished along with the Greater London Council, next week, Mr Richard Cottrell, Conservative MEP for Bristol and Bath, said yesterday.

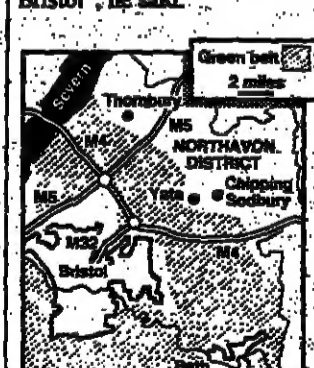
He was speaking at the launch of a campaign by local conservation groups to stop the council allowing more than 10,000 homes to be built in fields and villages to the north of Bristol.

"The county council now exists in order to continue its own existence", Mr Cottrell said. He added that the Bristol-based council, on which Labour has just lost control, employs more people than the institution of the EEC.

"There would be dancing in the streets if the council went", Mr Cottrell predicted that the commercial centres of Bristol and Bath would die if the housing plan went ahead.

Mr Gerald Harford, local chairman of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, said local job prospects did not justify nearly so much building.

There was a risk that Northavon would become "an arid and ugly suburb of north Bristol", he said.



Caution to Labour on Militant action

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

A High Court judge clamped down yesterday on the procedures under which Labour's national executive will hear expulsion charges today against 12 Liverpool Militant supporters.

The Vice-Chancellor, Sir Nicholas Browne-Wilkinson, ruled that it would be unfair and contrary to the rules of natural justice if verdicts were reached on the basis of evidence given in confidence to an eight-strong executive inquiry team, and that it would be wrong for the team to take part in today's proceedings.

Mr Larry Whitty, the Labour Party's general secretary, said afterwards that there was enough evidence against the 12 to go ahead with the hearing.

It was also thought that the exclusion of the eight executive members who had heard the evidence in Liverpool would make no difference to the verdicts reached, although it could narrow the majorities for expulsion of Mr Derek Hutton, the deputy council leader, and his 11 comrades.

Giving judgement, the Vice-Chancellor said that the case turned on whether the procedures proposed for adoption by the NEC did, or did not, offend principles of natural justice.

The most important was the apparent threat to use evidence given in confidence to the inquiry team, as evidence against the 12 individuals.

"There is an overwhelming public interest in ensuring that decisions are not made affecting the livelihood of an individual without the procedure being fair," he said.

The judge said: "I have real sympathy with the Labour Party in the circumstances in which they find themselves. It flows from the fact that they have chosen to conduct an inquiry on the basis of confidential information given to some members of the NEC."

As to witnesses whom the 12 wished to call, there was no absolute right to call witnesses for hearing of a domestic tribunal. The matter was within the control of the NEC.

The judge ordered the NEC to pay half of the 12 plaintiffs' costs.

Foreign policy papers given in lieu of tax

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The Government has accepted a valuable collection of private and State documents covering British foreign policy from the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries for an undisclosed sum in lieu of tax.

The ownership of the papers was not disclosed by Mr Richard Luce, the Minister for the Arts, when he announced the deal in a Commons written reply yesterday.

The acceptance is the first under a new scheme announced last year, whereby important items could be saved for the nation by funds from the Public Expenditure Reserve. The papers include personal, State and political documents collected by the Dukes of Portland and Newcastle. Most are already in the possession of the British Library.

Museum flood investigation

Sir George Young, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment, told the Commons yesterday that in consultation with Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, he had ordered an independent investigation into the recent flooding at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

N-plant rebuff

Selfish workers have cancelled a meeting with the environmental group Greenpeace, due to take place next week when campaigners opposed to the nuclear plant and an anti-Selfish Cruise in the Irish Sea.

'Man's Hour'

Terry Jones, a former member of the Monty Python cast, will present *Women's Hour* on BBC Radio on April Fool's Day, the first time it has been presented by a man.

Correction

A report in *The Times* (March 27) of the conviction at the Central Criminal Court of John Dinsdale, Bernard Horsfield and James Blacow for corruption misstated two of the sentences imposed. Horsfield was sentenced to 18 months of which six were to be served, and Blacow, to 12 months, of which four were to be served.

Stormy times for French

In 1066 William, Duke of Normandy, and his invasion fleet were pined against the Normandy coast for several weeks, held up by stormy weather.

Ironically, 920 years later stormy weather yesterday prevented a French delegation from sailing from the port of Cherbourg in France, to Portsmouth for the Domesday 900 pageant parade through the streets of Winchester today.

"All the ferries had been cancelled," Mr Mike Hughes a spokesman for the Domesday exhibition said.

"Perhaps it has something to do with the recent sightings of Halley's Comet," he said. The comet was also seen before the Norman Invasion.

The Mayor of Bayeux was due to join the Mayor of Winchester, Mrs Jean Freeman, in today's colourful procession to the thirteenth century Great Hall.

The procession will go ahead with flag of the City of Bayeux, and the standard of William the Conqueror, and Mr David Cowan, Winchester city chief executive, will take the place of the Mayor of Bayeux.

The Domesday 900 exhibition, sponsored jointly by *The Sunday Times*, Hampshire county council and Winchester city council will run throughout the summer, closing on November 1.

Staff cut threat to hospitals

More than 400 beds will have to close in the Bloomsbury health authority district in London and 1,800 staff will lose their jobs if the North East Thames regional health authority adheres to its spending plans for the next seven years, a consultative document from Bloomsbury said yesterday.

The bed cuts would amount to a 20 per cent reduction, badly affecting smaller hospitals and the teaching centres at University College Hospital and the Middlesex Hospital, and spending would have to be reduced by £28 million from the present £118 million a year.

Even if the authority's preferred plan was adopted, £18 million will have to be cut from the budget.

Oxfordshire District Health Authority decided yesterday to defer for a month any decisions on a £1.7 million package of cuts, which would "involve wholesale reductions in services", pending discussions with Mr Barney Hayhoe, the Minister for Health.

Stroller dies

Stroller, the pony who, partnered by Mrs Marion Mould, won a silver medal in the 1968 Mexico Olympics and five gold medals at Hickstead, has died, aged 36, of a heart attack.

Spain writes to Luce over Goya dispute

By Geraldine Norman, Arts Correspondent

Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, has received a letter from the Spanish government about Goya's masterpiece "The Marquessa de Santa Cruz", he has disclosed in a Commons written answer.

The Spanish government has claimed that the picture's export licence from Spain was forged and its export illegal under Spanish law. Spain is trying to secure the return of the painting, due to be auctioned at Christie's on April 11.

Mr Luce said that he was considering the letter, but he

could not comment on the case, which may be the subject of a court action.

Yesterday, legal advisers to Christie's and Lord Wimborne, who owns the painting, were considering whether to appeal against a High Court ruling that the British courts were competent to decide whether the Spanish export documents were forged.

Christie's and Lord Wimborne have argued that the matter is outside British jurisdiction.

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Couple choose a royal marriage with tradition

Continued from page 1

Favourites to be Miss Ferguson's mistress of honour must be her sister, Mrs Jane Makin, who lives in Australia, and her former flatmate in Battersea, Miss Carolyn Beckwith-Smith, who is herself due to be married soon.

The strongest contender for best man is Prince Edward, who acted as joint best man, or supporter, with Prince Andrew at Prince Charles' wedding. Precedent suggests that the

Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, will officiate. The guest list will include a galaxy of foreign royalty and dignitaries.

Correct protocol will almost certainly ensure that an invitation is extended to Mr Hector Barranetes, Miss Ferguson's stepfather, in spite of the possibility of diplomatic discomfort over his being an Argentinian and, therefore, unwelcome on the polo fields

of Britain since the Falklands war.

Again judging by precedent, Prince Andrew will set out for his wedding from Buckingham Palace in an open coach - given fair weather - and his procession will follow a route down The Mall, Horse Guards Arch, Whitehall and Parliament Square to the Abbey.

Like the Princess of Wales, Miss Ferguson is likely to set out from Clarence House, home of the Queen Mother, in

the same glass coach, and join The Mall to follow the same route.

The ceremonies are likely to be seen on television worldwide. The marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales attracted one of the biggest international audiences ever, and even that of Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips, the first royal wedding to be screened in colour, attracted a viewing figure of 500 million.

For their honeymoon, the

couple are likely to choose the security and privacy of the royal yacht Britannia, as did the Prince and Princess of Wales, and Princess Anne and Captain Phillips.

The yacht is scheduled for a refit next year to replace some of her wooden decking, but will be free after the wedding.

The vessel will next be required for the Queen's tour of China in October, when it will take her from Shanghai to Hong Kong.

Woman abandoned by lover must lose her home, court rules

A householder, abandoned by her lover, yesterday lost a legal fight to prevent a finance company taking possession of her home under a mortgage agreement described by a judge as "extortionate".

However, the Court of Appeal referred the case to the Director General of Fair Trading to consider whether to take action against the company, Castle Phillips Finance.

Miss Irene O'Connor had claimed that the transaction - a short-term loan carrying interest at an annual rate of 48 per cent - should be set aside because she did not understand it and because she was unduly influenced by the man with whom she lived, who has since left her.

Two judges dismissed her claims and upheld a county court ruling that Castle Phillips "were entitled to take possession and sell her home, 109 Cowper Street, Luton, Bedfordshire, valued at more than £22,000."

Lord Justice Dillon said

that he was troubled by his "prima facie view that the credit bargain was extortionate". That point had not been taken by Miss O'Connor and it would not be appropriate to send the case back to Luton County Court for it to be argued, he said.

The judge, sitting with Mrs Justice Booth, added: "It is of public importance that those licensed under the Consumer Credit Act 1974 should not enter into extortionate bargains or engage in deceitful, oppressive or unfair business practices."

He directed that the papers, with a copy of the court's judgement, should be sent to the Director General of Fair Trading.

Miss O'Connor and Mr George Williams, her lover since 1969 and the father of her child, borrowed £11,000 from Castle Phillips in November, 1984, to pay off a £5,700 loan society mortgage, with which they were in arrears, and leave them with a capital sum.

The judge said that they had been introduced to the company through two other companies, Melkay Finance, of Luton, and Sovereign Finance, of Southampton. Out of the £11,000, the couple had to pay a £1,120 "fee" to Sovereign, £380 "interest in advance", and other charges.

The balance of nearly £3,000 was banked by Mr Williams in his own account. Four months later he left Miss O'Connor and, within days, had married another woman.

The judge said: "One can suspect that, although this was, of course, unknown to the company, Mr Williams's plan in his own mind was to raise capital which he could use as a deposit on another house, whenever it suited him to throw over Miss O'Connor and their child."

Miss O'Connor was unable to make any payments from the loan, which was over a period of four to six months, and the company therefore sought possession.

Sentencing guide issued to courts

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Magistrates and judges were given a new weapon yesterday against discrepancies between sentences imposed by different courts.

The aim, according to a Home Office handbook on treatment of offenders, is not to secure uniformity of sentence but uniformity of approach.

"Much will always depend on the particular circumstances of the individual offender and the individual offence," it adds.

The National Association of Probation Officers, Mr Gerald Birmingham, Labour MP for St Helens South, and Lord Hunt, former chairman of the Parole Board, are among those who have expressed concern at wide discrepancies between penalties. The Automobile Association disclosed big differences in 8,000 court cases involving its members.

The new guidance is expected to make courts less dependent on their sentencing traditions, regarded as one of the main reasons for differences in approach, and the advice of the clerk.

The handbook, which is being distributed to 26,000 magistrates, judges and clerks, says that imprisonment should be the penalty for serious offences; for others there has to be a good reason for not imposing other options. If a prison sentence is inevitable, it should be as short as is consistent with the need to punish.

It adds that jail is not "in any way a 'treatment' for criminality, and a prison sentence should not be imposed with rehabilitative aims in mind."

Deterrence also carries little weight. "It would be wrong to impose a custodial sentence in a case where that severe a penalty was not warranted by the crime in question, merely in the hope of achieving a deterrent or a reformative effect," it says.

The handbook says that it is contrary to established sentencing principles to substitute a custodial sentence for a fine "simply because the offender lacks means."

The *Sentencing of the Courts* (Stationery Office, £3.50).

Heathrow curbs foreseen

By Michael Bailly, Transport Editor

Restrictions on domestic flights to Heathrow in the late 1980s to halt worsening overcrowding at the world's busiest international airport is foreseen in a Civil Aviation Authority report to the Government.

Charter flights to Gatwick could also be restricted later, and business, freight, and possibly international passenger flights to Heathrow unless the airlines are able to stop the rise in flights.

The CAA is clearly concerned to move traffic from overcrowded Heathrow and Gatwick to Stansted in the 1990s, though no airline will be directed from one to the other.

Recommended steps include:

- Restrictions on general, business, taxi, and all-freight flights at Heathrow and Gatwick.

- Restrictions on new domestic routes at Heathrow.

- Possible removal from Heathrow of lightly-used feeder routes such as Carlisle and Dundee, Inverness, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Plymouth and Newquay, and Jersey.

- Limits on the number of daily flights on domestic routes to Heathrow, except where competitive forces make this impracticable such as shuttle routes to Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Belfast.

- Possible restriction on the number of daily flights on international routes to Heathrow.

- Possible reduction of charter flights from Gatwick to make room for more scheduled services.

In another air development, a £50 million-a-year expansion plan was announced by British Caledonian yesterday in an effort to catch up with British Airways on international routes.

The airline plans to acquire two more Boeing 747 jets this summer and to open services to Japan, China and Italy.

B-Cal claims that its new routes are in line with the Government's competition policy, but they still require permission from foreign governments and will be strongly opposed by BA.

Chandler and Flear still lead in chess

By Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent

With only two rounds to play in the GLC Chess Challenge at London's Great Eastern Hotel, the Leicester international master Glenn Flear and the British grandmaster Murray Chandler still lead with 7½ points.

Flear, by drawing his game against Nigel Short, made his first leg of the grandmaster title. Chandler adjourned against the former world champion Boris Spassky in a long and difficult endgame, but managed to draw.

Chandler's opponent, the 1985 world champion, was a long and difficult endgame, but managed to draw.

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Full steam ahead for record-breaker



Mallard, the steam engine which reached a speed of 126mph in 1938, back on the tracks again yesterday for the first time in 23 years.

The locomotive, which made the record-breaking run between Grantham and Peterborough, was paying a courtesy visit to Scarborough, where the council has contributed £35,000 towards the cost of a nine-month restoration project and to help keep the engine on the tracks. It is expected to haul "steam specials" from June this year.

From Scarborough, the locomotive went on to British Rail's works at Doncaster, where it was built, for the finishing touches including a new coat of "garter blue" paint.

Mallard was designed by Sir Nigel Gresley for the London and North Eastern Railway's services between London and Edinburgh. It was in service until 1963, and has been kept in the National Railway Museum at York since 1975.

GCSE 'shambles' warning to Joseph

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

The new GCSE examination for 16-year-olds would be a shambles and a disaster if the Government insisted on introducing it on schedule and without employing extra teachers, the leader of the second biggest teaching union said yesterday.

Mr Fred Smithies, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, called on Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, to postpone its introduction. He said that otherwise the exam would go the way of the CSE in which the bulk of courses and with a conventional exam.

Mr Smithies said that without extra staff, teachers might work inadequately, refuse to co-operate with the GCSE, or

take on a lot of extra work.

He was replying to a letter from Sir Keith which accepted that there were real concerns about the training programme.

At the union's annual conference next week in Scarborough will be a motion calling on the 127,000 members to take no part in the development of the new exam unless the timetable is extended, adequate resources are provided for training, and appropriate fees are agreed for exams and assessment.

The Government's recent injection of £20 million for books and equipment for the new exam, and £200,000 for training, on top of an original £10 million, was inadequate, he said.

Officer sorry about death of Hell's Angel

The custody officer in charge of Hounslow police station on the night John Mikkleson died turned to Hells Angels in the public gallery at Hammersmith coroner's court yesterday to say he was sorry.

Sergeant Roger Kent made the statement after giving his evidence.

Mr Mikkleson, aged 34, of Salter's Road, North Kensington, died after being arrested in Feltham last July in connection with a car.

Dr John Taylor said he believed Mr Mikkleson had drunk more than ten pints of beer that night. He also found small drug traces in his blood. Another forensic scientist, Dr Anne Christian said she found traces of human blood on two police truncheons.

Midwife sues over hospital transfer

A midwife was placed under special supervision and moved from an experimental scheme, in which she was caring for expectant mothers throughout their pregnancy, when her superiors found she had been visiting her patients at home. It was alleged at an industrial tribunal yesterday.

Miss Wendy Pearce, aged 31, was also formally reprimanded after complaints about two cases.

Miss Pearce, a midwife at St George's Hospital, Tooting, is claiming constructive dismissal from Wandsworth Health Authority.

Mrs Lynette Murray, Wandsworth Director of Nursing Services, told the tribunal that the decision to transfer Miss Pearce from the "Know Your Midwife" scheme had not been a punishment.

Miss Pearce had been transferred to the labour ward and offered extra training under supervision. Mrs Murray said: "If you feel a midwife has problems a transfer is arranged. It is designed to help them and stop them going down the wrong track."

Mrs Murray denied she reacted angrily when she discovered midwives had been visiting expectant mothers at home.

She said she initially suspended Miss Pearce from duty after a patient complained she had been "very distressed" after being told not to rush into hospital but to remain at home and have a bath when she was in labour.

Miss Pearce had also dealt, without calling a doctor, with symptoms of foetal distress in which a baby's heart rate dropped, the tribunal was told. Mrs Murray said: "The midwives deal with the normal and the medical staff deal with the abnormal."

The hearing continues.



The Prince of Wales showing his injured finger in London yesterday, which he said was hanging on by a thread after he struck it with a mallet at his Highgrove home on Saturday.

US fighters for Libya plan 'was just a joke'

A businessman maintained at the Central Criminal Court yesterday that he was joking when he spoke about the supply of American F16 fighter jets to Libya.

Mr Godfrey Shiner, aged 48, of Napton on the Hill, Warwickshire, agreed that he spoke about planes while on his motor cruiser in Malta.

"But it was said jokingly, there is no doubt about it," he told the jury.

Mr Shiner, who is in business supplying oilfield equipment to Libya, denies conspiring to pervert the course of justice by arranging for Mr Mohammed Shebli, aged 43, a Libyan, to be flown

out of Britain in 1984 and evade a drugs trial.

A second businessman, Mr Anthony Gill, aged 50, of Farmfield Road, Great Tey, Colchester, has admitted taking part in the plot. Giving evidence for the prosecution, he accused Mr Shiner of suggesting the flight during a meeting on board his boat in July 1984.

Mr Gill said that Mr Shiner spoke about the supply of F16s to Colonel Gaddafi's regime. Mr Shiner said he gave Mr Shebli's name as a business contact in Britain.

The hearing continues today.

Curry tops league for eating out

By Robin Young

Curry is Britain's most popular dining-out food, and the best curry in Britain is served at the Bombay Brasserie in Kensington, according to the second edition of *The Good Curry Guide*, published tomorrow.

The book, edited by Mr Pat Chapman, the founder of a curry enthusiasts' club that claims 8,000 members, lists more than 700 recommended curry restaurants in Britain.

They're nearly 4,000 Indian curries alone, but the

book also lists Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Sri-Lankan, Burmese, Nepalese, Thai, Singaporean, Malay and Caribbean establishments.

The restaurants are as diverse as the spices with which they carry their clients' favour. At the Rajpoot Tandoori in Durham, a full lunch is £1.65, while in trendy Islington the Sonar Coast prices its kashu, a whole young lamb stuffed with Basmati rice which will serve up to 25, at £400.

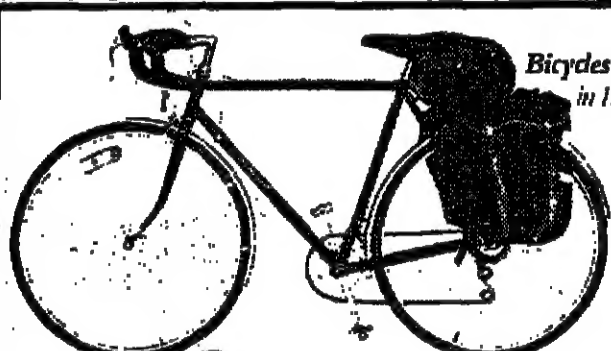
In Stroud Green, north London, the Beewees offers

"amazing home-made rum punch" to wash down West Indian goat curry and crab calaloo.

Mr Chapman claims recent surveys prove that Indian-style food has overtaken Chinese in popularity. Indian restaurants, he calculates, are still opening at the rate of 400 a year, but less than 15 per cent are operated by Indians.

The Good Curry Guide 1986/87, edited by Pat Chapman, (Piatkus Books, £3.95, also available at same price from The Curry Club, PO Box 7, Haslemere, Surrey, GU27 1EP).

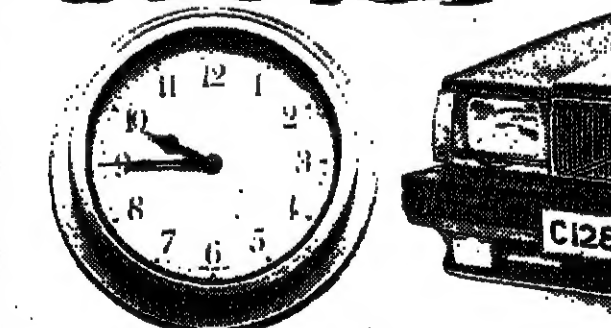
DOVER



Bicycles, Bicycles and tandems go free in 1986 on all crossings.



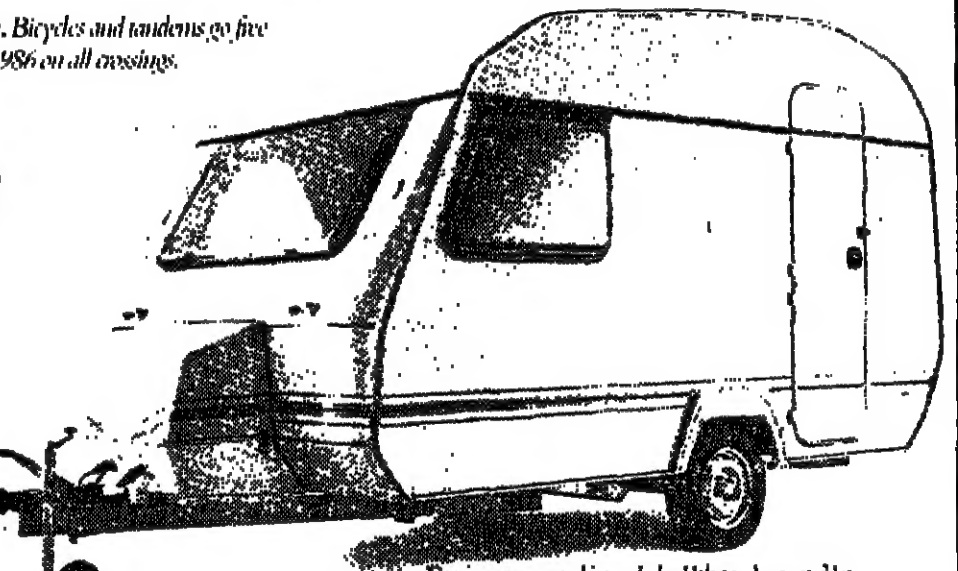
Motorists Fares Reduced. Fares for motorists and their passengers are down on 1985 prices.



Early sailing savings. Each one of our morning crossings between July 11th and August 31st and it will cost less than last year.

CALAIS

Free caravans. From July 11th to August 31st, caravans and trailers up to 5.5 metres cross free on afternoon sailings, with big reductions on many others.



Free caravans. From July 11th to August 31st, caravans and trailers up to 5.5 metres cross free on afternoon sailings, with big reductions on many others.



Smaller fares for larger cars. We now have only two car lengths, not three. So the larger family cars will cost less.

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First the good news.

As a glance at this page shows, if you want to go across the Channel this summer, go Sealink.

Whether you've a caravan in tow or a car full of kids, there are genuine savings to be made going over from Dover with us.

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PARLIAMENT MARCH 25 1986

Why BL deal failed

Thatcher's shares

British Gas sale

GM plan for Leyland not in the national interest

INDUSTRY

Despite the fact that General Motors' proposals for Leyland Trucks, Freight Rover and Land Rover were commercially acceptable to the board of BL, the Government was not prepared to accept them in the national interest, Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said in a statement to the Commons.

The Government would go on with the established plans for Leyland Trucks, he added. The BL board would be considering all the options available and would make recommendations to him which the Government would consider in the normal way.

He promised no decisions would be taken before the House returned after the Easter recess.

In his statement, Mr Channon said that British Leyland and the Government had been in discussions with several companies about the privatization of the main Land Rover-Leyland business. Of these, General Motors (GM) had made proposals concerning Leyland Trucks, Freight Rover and Land Rover.

In relation to the truck and van sectors (he said) the talks with GM concentrated on the possibilities for combining the respective Leyland and Bedford businesses to the mutual benefit of GM and BL.

In respect of Land Rover, where there are opportunities for Land Rover in expanding European and world markets, the Government was determined that as a condition of privatization special arrangements should be concluded to safeguard UK interests, including a measure of real UK control over the future of the business.

For its part, however, GM wished to have effective control of the company from the outset and an assurance of full ownership and control within a relatively short period, and it became clear that they were not able to compromise on these points.

Despite the view taken of the GM proposal by the BL board from its commercial standpoint, this was not a basis for an agreement acceptable to the Government in the national interest.

GM have stated (he continued) that they are not willing to proceed with an arrangement for Leyland Trucks and Freight Rover which excludes the Land Rover company and the talks have therefore been ended.

The BL board will give further study to the alternative ways forward for all the businesses concerned. For Leyland Trucks, which operates in a depressed and fiercely competitive market, the board will continue to examine the possibilities for collaboration with other manufacturers and other ways to sustain its improving trend in performance.

The Government continues to support the commercial development of this business in accordance with the established plans.

For Land Rover and Freight Rover, the board will include in their examination the various expressions of interest which have already been announced, with a view to recommending the course most likely to achieve the privatization of the businesses in a way which best secures their future.

Mr John Smith, chief Oppo-

sition spokesman on trade and industry, said: Mr Channon has announced the collapse of a venture ill-conceived in purpose, anti-British in its effect, and handled with almost unbelievable incompetence. (Labour cheers.)

Now he has confirmed the ending of talks, is this the end of this discredited proposal?

Could the House have an assurance that there would be no question of Land Rover or any other part of the BL Group passing out of British control during the lifetime of this Government?

Only the strongly-expressed voice of Parliament and people had changed the direction of this



Channon: GM not able to compromise

issue. (Labour cheers.) By hanging a "For Sale" notice over the premises the Government had been culpably negligent in their stewardship of a crucial part of British industry. (Labour cheers and Conservative protests.)

We are now in a very fast-moving situation (he said). Can we have an assurance that there will be no further announcement about any sale of British Leyland before the end of the Easter recess and that before there are any further moves there will be a full debate in the Commons so that all parts of the House can express their opinions upon it?

Mr Channon said it was always made clear that they wanted to get adequate assurances before they would ever be prepared to sell Land Rover to GM. There might have been a possible compromise. That was something that was discussed.

But it was impossible to have a situation where GM insisted on having effective control of the company and an assurance of full ownership control within a relatively short period.

That was not something I could recommend to my colleagues or the House.

Mr Robert Atkins (South Ribbleside, C): The pull-out of GM means that with the successful recent record of Leyland Trucks in terms of product, price and market shares, it will need further investment from the Government, from the taxpayer, in the same way that other successful companies, like British Aerospace, have deserved and achieved over recent years.

The continuing partisan and short-sighted barrage of questions and statements from the Opposition have probably done more harm to the future and jobs of those working in Leyland Trucks than GM could ever have done.

Mr Channon: On the future of Leyland Trucks, that would be a matter for the board. They will come forward with proposals in the normal way. At present there is no suggestion of further equity for Leyland Trucks or any other

part of the Leyland business. Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party, said GM had a legitimate grievance in that when the take-over of the whole lot was first proposed by Mr Tebbit in mid-1984 there were no such conditions. The conditions had only been imposed by pressure in the House, quite properly, in the past few weeks.

Representations were coming in from the retailers of Austin Rover that the damaging uncertainty was affecting sales in the car markets. Mr Channon would make it his business to restore calm on the future of British Leyland as soon as possible.

Mr Channon said Mr Tebbit publicly sought would-be buyers some time ago. GM's original interest arose out of discussions about mutual problems in trucks. It was always clear from the start that any interest in Land Rover/Ranger Rover might raise questions of this kind.

The whole House would like to pay tribute to Austin Rover's progress and congratulate the company on increasing exports, particularly to Europe.

Mr Michael Heseltine (Hemel Hempstead, C): In the context of the bus and truck industries of Britain and Europe there is huge excess capacity. In trying to judge the recommendations of the board of British Leyland, what criteria will he have in mind in determining the strategy that will protect British interests?

Mr Channon: I agree there is huge excess capacity. That is a factor we shall all have to consider very carefully and which the BL board must consider carefully in recommending the future course of action to me.

I shall ensure that all relevant factors relating to that are put before me before I come forward with recommendations.

Mr Michael Foot (Blaenau Gwent, Lab): When the minister and the Government make the remarkable discovery that it was the desire and determination of GM to take over the whole business?

Mr Channon: It was always clear that GM wanted to take over the whole business. We wished to see if there was a compromise acceptable to all the parties concerned. No compromise was found, therefore the talks were broken off.

He added later that it would not be right for him to speculate on the future of British Leyland. On the BL subsidiaries (he said) I will be able to bring to the House proposals made to me by the BL board which will offer them a secure future.

Mr George Park (Coventry North East, Lab): Will he acknowledge the damage that has been done to BL by these abortive negotiations?

Mr Channon: I do not acknowl-

edge what he says. Mr Hilary Miller (Bromsgrove, C): In the light of the Opposition crowing in their isolationist joy, turning away much needed investment in our truck and commercial vehicle industry, what discussions has he had with GM about keeping the design and development of commercial vehicles in this country?

Mr Channon: I entirely agree with him that the wholly hypocritical attitude of the Opposition. I have not had discussions with GM about this point. It is a matter for GM. I very much hope they continue in this country.

Mr Graham Bright (Luton South, C): This decision has caused an enormous question mark on the whole future of Bedford trucks. The opportunity for GM to make this country the centre of development and design for the whole of Europe has been blown.

If GM negotiate with Renault trucks or Volvo we will lose these sales away to Europe. Surely this is exactly the thing we ought to be trying to stop.

The GM deal would enable us to have a proper truck manufacturing operation in this country. The people of Luton and Bedfordshire will feel this has been blown.

Mr Channon: I very much hope his views will not be justified. GM will be looking very seriously at all the alternative ways forward for Bedford.

Mr Ian Wrigglesworth (Stockton South, SDP): The uncertainty is very damaging. Will he seek to bring discussions, particularly with the management buy-out proposals to an early conclusion?

Mr Channon: I agree with him that it would be helpful if these matters could be brought to a conclusion in the reasonably near future.

Mr Philip Ouseley (Amber Valley, C): Have we not lost a great opportunity to restructure the British truck industry? Will not GM now run off and make a deal with one of our European competitors?

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The Americans had every right to operate in international waters and airspace and were entitled to self-defence when attacked. Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said in the Commons when asked to comment on the outbreak of hostilities between the United States and Libya.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, asked during question time for her opinion on America's actions which he

described as dangerous and destabilising.

He said: I understand that the Foreign Office is not making a statement today on the incident in the Gulf of Sidra yesterday.

Can I therefore ask her to agree that her Government's response, both to atrocities and attacks on British citizens and to the US proposals for economic sanctions against Libya in January, may have been a great deal more rational and responsible than the dangerous and destabilising attacks on Libya by US forces yesterday?

Can she tell me what view her Government expressed to the

Libyans?

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Mr Channon: I very much hope his views will not be justified. GM will be looking very seriously at all the alternative ways forward for Bedford.

US exercise defended

LIBYA

The Americans had every right to operate in international waters and airspace and were entitled to self-defence when attacked. Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said in the Commons when asked to comment on the outbreak of hostilities between the United States and Libya.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, asked during question time for her opinion on America's actions which he

described as dangerous and destabilising.

He said: I understand that the Foreign Office is not making a statement today on the incident in the Gulf of Sidra yesterday.

Can I therefore ask her to agree that her Government's response, both to atrocities and attacks on British citizens and to the US proposals for economic sanctions against Libya in January, may have been a great deal more rational and responsible than the dangerous and destabilising attacks on Libya by US forces yesterday?

Can she tell me what view her Government expressed to the

Libyans?

Mr Channon: I entirely agree with him that the wholly hypocritical attitude of the Opposition. I have not had discussions with GM about this point. It is a matter for GM. I very much hope they continue in this country.

Mr Graham Bright (Luton South, C): This decision has caused an enormous question mark on the whole future of Bedford trucks. The opportunity for GM to make this country the centre of development and design for the whole of Europe has been blown.

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Mr Ian Wrigglesworth (Stockton South, SDP): The uncertainty is very damaging. Will he seek to bring discussions, particularly with the management buy-out proposals to an early conclusion?

Mr Channon: I agree with him that it would be helpful if these matters could be brought to a conclusion in the reasonably near future.

Mr Philip Ouseley (Amber Valley, C): Have we not lost a great opportunity to restructure the British truck industry? Will not GM now run off and make a deal with one of our European competitors?

Mr Channon: It was always clear that GM wanted to take over the whole business. We wished to see if there was a compromise acceptable to all the parties concerned. No compromise was found, therefore the talks were broken off.

He added later that it would not be right for him to speculate on the future of British Leyland. On the BL subsidiaries (he said) I will be able to bring to the House proposals made to me by the BL board which will offer them a secure future.

Mr George Park (Coventry North East, Lab): Will he acknowledge the damage that has been done to BL by these abortive negotiations?

Mr Channon: I do not acknowl-

edge what he says. Mr Hilary Miller (Bromsgrove, C): In the light of the Opposition crowing in their isolationist joy, turning away much needed investment in our truck and commercial vehicle industry, what discussions has he had with GM about keeping the design and development of commercial vehicles in this country?

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Walker's high hopes for privatized gas

GAS BILL

The Gas Bill would create a major industrial, manufacturing and distributive concern which could have a role at home and abroad and be able to fulfil that role better and with greater freedom and enthusiasm than it had since nationalization, Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, said when he moved the third reading of the Bill in the Commons.

Mr Stanley Orme, chief Opposition spokesman on energy, said that one of Britain's most successful industries, a public monopoly which was profitable and expanding, would be turned into a public monopoly without competition and without regulation safeguards.

Mr Walker said the Government wanted the new gas consumers' council to be a more effective organisation. Over the years the present council had got involved in committees and the passing of paper. Now there was an opportunity to make sure it used its power to the benefit of the consumer.

If the raw material price of gas moved down, the formula chosen by the Government would see that the consumer benefited.

In drafting the legislation, the Government had recognized the importance of high safety standards and had not only transferred the existing requirements to the new company, but had examined and amended them.

Mr Spencer Batiste (Elmet, C) said the formation of British Gas would add significantly to the national number of shareholders which, at 6 per cent, was too low. Also, it would add to the size, variety and vigour of the stock market itself.

Mr Malcolm Bruce (Gordon, L) said the share price of British Gas would be seriously affected by falling oil prices. The Liberals, unlike the Government, were prepared to expose British Gas to more effective competition and to consider breaking it up into separate companies. They would ensure that shareholders would get a fair return, but there would be no licence to print money.

Mr Orme said the Government's only reason for its election strategy, the rights of consumers were still badly met by the Bill.

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Flashpoint Libya • Law on Reagan's side • Unease in the region • How crisis escalated

Legal experts back US over claim to the Gulf of Sirte

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

Washington's claim that the US Sixth Fleet, in carrying out exercises in the Gulf of Sirte, was within international waters is well supported by international law, according to experts. There is no legal basis for Libya's insistence that the whole of the gulf forms part of Libya's territorial waters.

Only one country, Burkina Faso, accepts the claim to ownership of the gulf, which Libya made in 1973. Not even the Soviet Union or radical Arab states support Libya's claim.

According to Dr Patricia Birnie, lecturer in international law at the London School of Economics, the definition of a bay is based both on custom and on two international treaties — the 1958 Geneva Convention on territorial waters and the 1983 Law of the Sea Treaty.

The US is party to the first, but not Libya. Libya is a signatory to the Law of the Sea Treaty (which also contains the territorial water provisions of the 1958 convention), but not the US. However, Washington

accepts the treaty's provisions dealing with territorial waters and contiguous zones.

Under the 1958 convention a nation can claim as its territorial waters any bays that are less than 24 miles wide between the low-water marks at the natural entrance points. The Gulf of Sirte is 275 miles wide and cannot therefore be accepted as being part of Libya's territorial waters.

However, this ruling does not apply to what are referred to as historic bays — areas of water which have been generally accepted over the years as belonging to a particular country. Chesapeake Bay, on the US east coast, is considered an historic bay.

Libya cannot make a legal case for the Gulf of Sirte being an historic bay, as its claim to those waters was made only 12 years ago and has been challenged by all major maritime nations.

The US would have been in breach of international law if its ships had been within Libya's 12-mile territorial water limit (even though the US,

like Britain, accepts only a three-mile territorial water limit).

Although warships are permitted the right of "innocent passage" through a nation's territorial waters, they are not allowed to carry out exercises or manoeuvres. The US recently upheld its right to innocent passage in the Black Sea by sending warships to within six miles of the Soviet Union's coastline.

Britain yesterday backed America's right to carry out manoeuvres in the Gulf of Sirte. "We don't accept Libya's claim that all the waters enclosed by the Gulf of Sirte are Libya's territorial waters," a Foreign Office spokesman said. "We do accept the US's right to exercise in international waters and we do accept the US's right to self-defence."

Britain and its European partners last year protested to Libya about its territorial claims to the gulf.

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Why fleet crossed the 'line of death'

From Christopher Thomas Washington

US naval ships or warplanes have crossed Colonel Gaddafi's "line of death" seven times since 1981 to demonstrate that all the Gulf of Sirte, outside Libya's 12-mile territorial limit, is in international waters.

Libya first announced in 1973 that it considered all the gulf to be part of its territorial waters. Colonel Gaddafi's "line of death", extending roughly from the city of Misrata on the western shore of the gulf to Benghazi on the east, was declared in December 1985. It takes in all 150,000 square miles of the gulf.

The US has rejected Libya's claim from the outset, although it has only been militarily challenged since President Reagan took office in January 1981. Colonel Gaddafi has maintained his "line of death" from 1973, even though he adopted the name only three months ago.

In January of this year the US Sixth Fleet held exercises near the gulf. Colonel Gaddafi boarded an armed Libyan patrol boat and sailed into the gulf to stage what he called a "confrontation". But there were no military exchanges.

However, there have been clashes periodically since 1981. The dispute escalated sharply in August 1981 when two US Navy F14 fighters shot down two Libyan SU22 fighters over the gulf, 60 miles off the Libyan coast, after being fired on by one of the Libyan planes.

The Reagan Administration has adopted a global approach to its policy of keeping international waters open to free passage.

Recently two American warships went into the Black Sea and approached to within six miles of the Soviet coast to demonstrate the right of "innocent passage" under international law, even in waters inside the 12-mile limit.

Britons on alert for backlash

By Gavin Bell

The US-Libyan confrontation has had no immediate effect on an estimated 5,000 British subjects living in Libya, but British businessmen are watching closely for any adverse repercussions on their interests there and elsewhere in the Arab world.

Mr Hugh Dunnachie, the Consul in Tripoli, advised London yesterday that he had nothing unusual to report, a Foreign Office spokesman said. No new advice had been issued to expatriates, and standing evacuation procedures were not under active consideration, he added.

British Caledonian, the only British airline that flies to Libya, said its services had not been affected and one of its three-weekly flights left Tripoli on schedule yesterday.

About half of the 10,000-strong British community in Libya left the country after Britain broke diplomatic relations in April 1984 when a policeman was killed by a gunman in the Libyan People's Bureau in London.

Since then diplomatic representation has been limited to an "interests section" at the Italian Embassy in the Libyan capital.

The last reliable statistics, published in 1983, showed that about 100 British companies were then operating in Libya, principally in civil engineering, construction, computer, telecommunications, petroleum and chemicals.

Industry sources said some of them had since pulled out, but accurate figures were not available.

Libya is sitting on estimated oil reserves of 21.1 billion barrels compared to 34.5 billion in the United States, but at current output rates Libya's oil should not run out for another 52 years, while America's should run dry in 8-9 years.

Libya is of high quality and is used in the European refineries to blend with other, cheaper crudes to produce the products that are in demand in the European market place.

The quality of its oil is reflected in production statistics, which show that while its output has fallen from 2.1 per cent of world output in 1980 to under 1.9 per cent at present, its share of overall Opec output has risen from 5.2 per cent in 1981 to over 6 per cent now.

Libya has substantial reserves, the potential to open up new oil fields, particularly off its coast, as well as the ability to send its natural gas into the European network by pipeline to southern Italy.

In addition, the crude oil

Unequal balance of rival forces

From Mohsin Ali Washington

The balance of military forces between Libya and the United States is estimated by Western experts as follows:

Libya: Total armed forces 73,000 regulars, 40,000 reserves. Total defence budget (1982) \$709 million (\$472.6 million). Submarines 6. Large combat missiles 1. Minor surface combatants 46. Combat aircraft 535.

United States: Total armed forces 2,152,000 regulars and 1,212,000 active reserves. Total defence budget \$258.2 billion (1984). Submarines 138. Large combat missiles 300. Minor surface combatants 89. Combat aircraft 5,600.

Estimated US forces near the Gulf of Sirte: Aircraft carriers 3 — the 59,460-ton USS Saratoga, with about 70 aircraft; the 52,500-ton USS Coral Sea, with about 75 aircraft; the 60,300-ton USS America, with about 85 aircraft. Escort warships 27. Flagship 1. Servicemen 18,000.

An A6 Intruder navy light bomber attacked the Libyan missile installation at Sirte with Harpoon missiles on Monday. An A7 Corsair II navy attack aircraft fired on the Libyan control boat with Harpoon missiles.

Harpoon is a 12ft air-to-surface anti-surface missile. Harrier is a 13ft air-to-surface missile.

The Libyan missile site attacked was equipped with Soviet SA5 long-range air defence missiles, 54ft long and guided by radar.

The Pentagon said that since 1970 Libya has received more than \$10 billion in Soviet military equipment. About 2,000 Soviet military advisers are in Libya as well as about 1,200 East European advisers and technicians.

The Soviet advisory mission assists with the assembly and maintenance of advanced Soviet equipment such as MIG25 Foxbat fighters and MIG24 Hind helicopters.

The Libyans were reported to have been building two SAS sites, enabling them to attack aircraft operating close to or over the Gulf of Sirte.

In return for supplying Libya with arms, the Soviet Union has received additional access to Libyan ports and airfields, thus enhancing Soviet military capabilities in the region.

Neighbouring Arabs view Gaddafi with suspicion

By Our Foreign Staff

As Colonel Gaddafi confronts the US Sixth Fleet off his shores, he finds himself surrounded by Arab neighbours no less suspicious of him than President Reagan.

To the east, the colonel faces Egypt, whose government accuses him of sponsoring subversion. Although tension has subsided in recent weeks, the two countries have been on the brink of war on several occasions, a situation which, given the antagonism existing between the Libyan and Egyptian leaders, could recur at any time.

To the south in Chad, some 5,000 Libyan troops are supporting rebels of the former president, Mr Houphouët-Boigny, against the French administration of President Hissène Habré. Last month French military aircraft attacked Libyan-rebel positions at Ouadi Doum after they had breached the 1984

agreement which led to the withdrawal of French and Libyan forces from Chad.

Colonel Gaddafi's relations with Tunisia to the west remain deeply strained after last summer's expulsion by Libya of thousands of Tunisian workers. His "treaty of union" with Morocco, which was signed in 1984 to the consternation of Paris and Washington, shows little sign of life. The first meeting of a joint parliamentary assembly, scheduled for last July in Rabat, was abruptly cancelled by King Hassan after Libya announced a treaty with Iran.

Colonel Gaddafi has been more successful in cultivating Algeria and Sudan, both of which had been at odds with him. On the day that the colonel's forces first clashed with the Americans, Algeria and Libya announced plans to increase trade tenfold this year.

Algeria and Libya also appear to have set aside border disputes, which prompted Algeria to block Libya from joining a 1983 "North African treaty of friendship and accord", which also includes Tunisia and Mauritania.

After years of hostility to Libya during the rule of former President Nimeiri, Sudan restored relations with Libya and signed a military protocol within weeks of the April 1985 coup that toppled the Nimeiri regime. In return, Libya cut off aid to the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army, which is waging a guerrilla war in the south.

But Libya's relationship with Sudan carries the risk of costly military involvement in an unstable country, taxing the resources of a nation whose political rhetoric outweighs its military and diplomatic resources.

Oil funds ambitious projects

Tripoli (Reuters) — Key facts about Libya:

Population: 3.22 million (1982). State religion: Sunni Islam. Area: 685,524 sq miles, bounded by Mediterranean, Egypt, Sudan, Algeria, Tunisia, Chad and Niger.

Capital: Tripoli, population 980,000. Economy: The discovery of oil in the 1950s made Libya one of the world's top 10 exporters a decade later. Concessions were granted to US, British, French and other foreign companies in 1955. In the 1970s Colonel Gaddafi set out to use oil wealth to revolutionize the economy and by 1983 had nationalized 70 per cent of the oil industry.

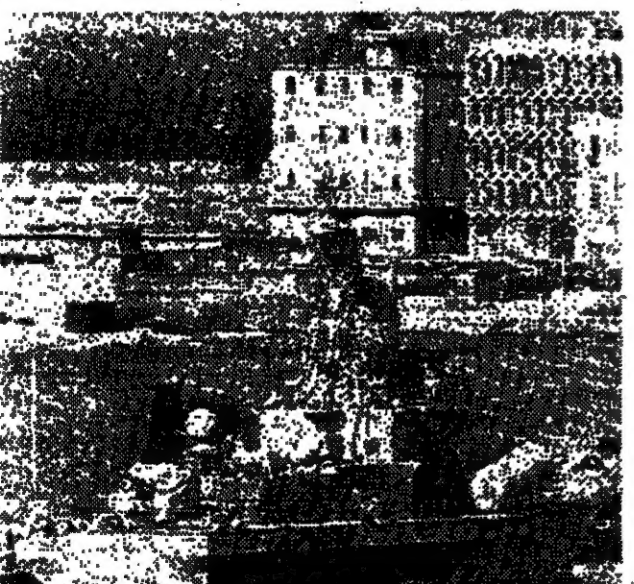
His most ambitious project was the \$11 billion "great man-made river" to pump water from underground Saharan reservoirs to the north. Recent history: Libya gained independence in 1951, after a decade of British and French administration, as a federal monarchy of three regions under King Muhammad Idris.

In 1953 it joined the Arab League and signed a 20-year treaty with Britain, granting it military bases in return for financial help. It signed a similar treaty with the US. On September 1, 1969, Colonel Gaddafi, aged 27, led a military coup which deposed Idris.

Since 1990 Libya's oil earnings have dropped by 40 per cent and a further drop is expected this year once the effects of falling world oil prices start to be reflected in the revenue cheques from the oil companies due to arrive shortly at the Libyan Treasury.

With a population of 3.2 million and an income of \$29.88 billion (£19.52 billion) — almost all of it from oil — the Libyan Government has been using its oil earnings for military projects and to support its programme of social reform.

Any cut in income will first be reflected in overseas spending as the country attempts to keep its internal expenditure intact.



A boat in Benghazi similar to the one sunk by the US.

Backbone of the fleet

Washington (Reuters) — At least the first of the Libyan Navy vessels reported destroyed by US planes was believed to be a small but speedy French-built missile-carrier that helped form the backbone of the Libyan fleet, according to available military data.

In announcing details of the first clash, the US Defence Secretary, Mr Caspar Weinberger, had identified the target craft as a Combattante Class fast attack boat. According to *Jane's Fighting Ships*, Libya had at least 10

Combattante II G fast attack boats produced in the late 1970s and early 1980s by the CMN Cherbourg shipyard in France.

It described the vessels as 311 tons fully loaded, about 161ft long, capable of making up to 39 knots and armed with four Otomat surface-to-surface missiles, one 76mm gun and two 40mm guns.

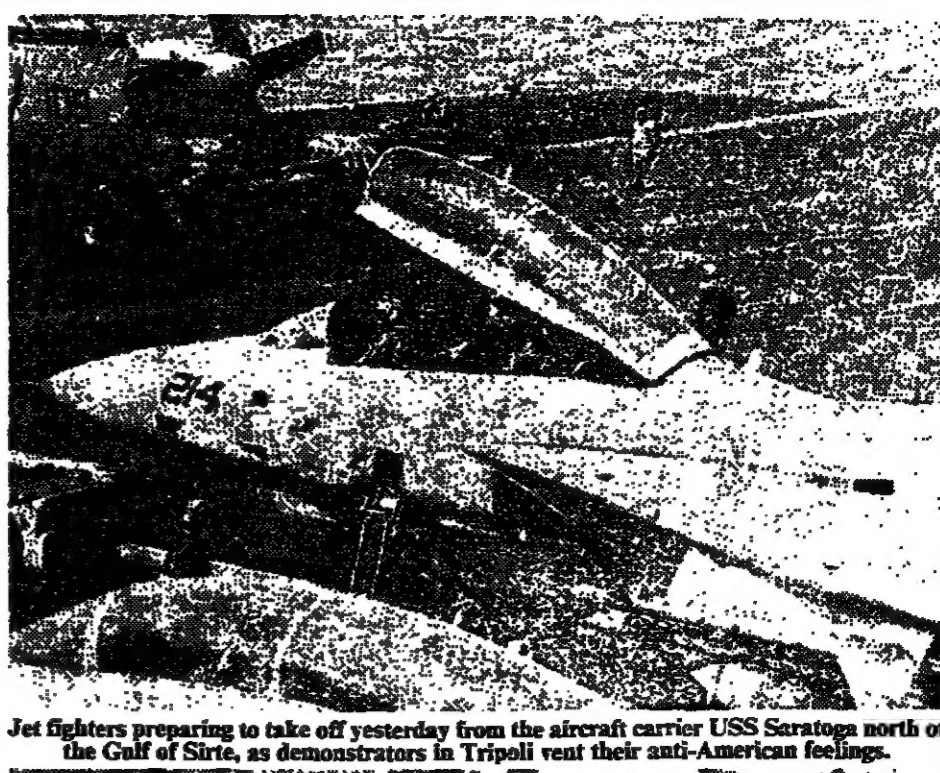
Military experts say that sea battles fought in the 1982 Falklands war between Britain and Argentina showed that large warships can be sunk by missiles fired from tiny boats.

Muslim fundamentalist policies, the other Arab producers — notably Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — have distanced themselves recently from Libya during Opec deliberations.

Libya is one of three countries, along with Iraq, which have called for strict output controls by Opec to send world oil prices soaring again. For, unlike Saudi Arabia and the other Arab Gulf countries, Libya does not have substantial foreign currency reserves to see it through a long period of low prices.

However, in its favour Libya does have substantial reserves, the potential to open up new oil fields, particularly off its coast, as well as the ability to send its natural gas into the European network by pipeline to southern Italy.

In addition, the crude oil



Jet fighters preparing to take off yesterday from the aircraft carrier USS Saratoga north of the Gulf of Sirte, as demonstrators in Tripoli vent their anti-American feelings.



The road to confrontation

Washington (Reuters) — Chronology of important incidents in the steady deterioration of US-Libyan relations:

December 2, 1979: A mob chanting support for Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran sets fire to US Embassy in Tripoli.
February 6, 1980: US Embassy virtually closed down after attacks on two French missions in Libya.
April-May 1980: Washington expels Libyan diplomats amid claims that Tripoli was intimidating Libyan students in US and was responsible for murder of Libyans in Europe.
May 6, 1981: US closes down Libyan embassy in Washington, accusing staff of conduct contrary to internationally ac-

cepted standards of diplomatic behaviour.

August 19, 1981: Two US F14 planes shoot down two Libyan SU22s over Gulf of Sirte.

November 1981: Reports surface that Libya has sent "hit squads" to US to assassinate President Reagan and Vice-President George Bush.

December 11, 1981: Washington restricts use of American passports for travel to Libya.

March 10, 1982: US bans imports of Libyan crude oil. February 1983: Washington sends four A-7s radar planes to Egypt amid reports of Libyan military build-up near its border with Sudan. US says F14 jets chased off two Libyan MIG23s that approached the carrier Nimitz near the gulf.

March 1984: US bans exports to Libya's Ras Lanuf petrochemical complex.

June 4, 1985: Washington expels Libyan UN diplomat, claiming that he was involved in plot against Libyan dissidents in US.

December 17, 1986: Nineteen people killed in Arab guerrilla attacks at Vienna and Rome airports. President Reagan accuses Libya of complicity.

January 7, 1986: Mr Reagan severs all economic ties with Libya and orders 1,000 Americans there to return home.

January 8, 1986: Washington freezes Libyan Government assets in US banks and their subsidiaries abroad.

Latest prices:

At last some help for the hard pressed Imperial shareholder. Mindful that share prices can vary daily, we are publishing a bulletin showing the value of each of the offers for your company. In order to be perfectly fair, the values we've quoted are based on the best possible offers.

HANSON BID WORTH:

362.9p

UNITED BISCUITS BID WORTH:

335.3p

HANSON BID BETTER BY:

+27.6p

Figures based on the market prices at 3.30pm on Tuesday.

HANSON TRUST

CONTINUING GROWTH FROM BASIC BUSINESSES.

The values of Hanson Trust's and United Biscuits' offers depend on their respective share prices. The above offer values are for Hanson Trust's Share and convertible stock (Hanson and United Biscuits' offers). The offer values take account of estimates by (Dorset) Gifford Ltd. of the values of the relevant ordinary share prices, of the UK's convertible loan stock of Hanson and the convertible preferred shares of United Biscuits.

Arch-foes share platform in Matabeleland peace drive

From Jan Raath
Harare

Leaders of both the ruling Zanu (PF) party and Mr Joshua Nkomo's opposition Zapu party are planning a series of unprecedented rallies in the western provinces of Matabeleland in an attempt to bring peace to the troubled region.

The first of the meetings was held on Sunday in a rundown trading centre near Kezi, 75 miles south of Bulawayo and one of the areas most infiltrated by guerrillas. In a remarkable gesture of

hatchet-burying, Mr Nkomo and Mr Enos Nkala, the Minister of Home Affairs and Zapu's bitterest enemy, shared a platform for the first time in 23 years to urge a thousand Ndebele peasants to co-operate with the security forces in their fight against pro-Zapu guerrillas.

The two men reaffirmed their support for negotiations — which began in September last year — to unite the two parties. Mr Nkala, the only Ndebele-speaking member of the Politburo of the ruling party, helped to engineer a

split in Zapu in 1963, then the only black nationalist organisation opposing white minority rule. He was also instrumental in forming the predecessor of Zanu (PF).

His repeated promises to "smash Zapu" and campaigns for the harassment of the party are believed to be a result of his resentment of Mr Nkomo's unofficial leadership of Zimbabwe's 1.8 million Ndebele people.

The peasants from the solidly pro-Zapu area of Kezi — Mr Nkomo's birthplace — reacted warmly to the two leaders' appeals, even if somewhat less enthusiastically to Mr Nkala. He was heckled and shown the

outraged bitterness of the people who for nearly five years have now borne the brunt of the brutality of both the security forces and the guerrillas.

Mr Nkala was bluntly told that the Army was solely responsible for the violence, and the peasants voiced their doubts about the actual existence of the guerrillas.

They received the thinly disguised endorsement of Mr Nkomo, who referred to "dis-

sidents, whoever they may be". The Army was repeatedly criticized for its "pseudo-operations" in which soldiers allegedly pose as guerrillas to elicit information on their movements from local people.

However, an incident at the very end appeared to sum up the mood of the meeting. An elderly man in traditional skin garb, who had earlier danced for the crowd, seized the microphone to declare: "Down with Mugabe, down with Nkomo."

But he went on as government officials visibly relaxed:

"Zapu is no more, Zanu is no more. The people of Zimbabwe are one."

Mr Nathan Shamuyarira, the Minister of Information, subsequently denied that the meeting was related to the unity talks. These are reported to have been strained in recent months, with factions in both parties opposing a merger.

Mr John Nkomo, Zapu's information secretary, however, agreed with Mr Shamuyarira that the meeting could be a "contributory factor" in improving the climate of the negotiations.

There is little doubt here that continued success with similar meetings would provide a shot in the arm to the talks.

The location of Sunday's rally, outside Kezi, has great significance for its inhabitants. The rocky hills nearby in 1896 were the scene of Cecil Rhodes' successful negotiations to end a rebellion by Ndebele armies that left 140 white settlers dead.

Also nearby is the shrine of Njelele, a granite outcrop where, possibly for centuries, people have offered propitiation to their ancestral spirits

Rocket attacks shake Tokyo

From David Watts
Tokyo

Salvoes of rocket-propelled incendiary bombs were fired at the Imperial Palace and the US Embassy here yesterday. It appeared to be a protest against plans to celebrate the sixtieth year of Emperor Hirohito's reign at the end of next month and the summit of seven Western industrialized countries early the following month.

There were no immediate claims of responsibility for the lunchtime attacks, neither of which caused injuries or serious damage.

Three rockets were first fired from the boot of a car about 100 yards from the Imperial Palace and within a few hundred yards of the British Embassy. The car burst into flames as one rocket landed near the Hamanomate Gate, another set fire to an old, ruined palace gate and the third was untraced.

Three similar rockets fired soon after at the US Embassy caused no damage and were also launched from a second stolen car.

Police said the rockets were simpler than those fired at Narita and Haneda airports by the Chukaku-ha faction of radical left-wingers almost a year ago.

The attacks came despite tighter security in Tokyo since March 1 in preparation for the anniversary and the summit, and despite well-publicized exercises by security men who will be responsible for protecting world leaders when they arrive in May.

The Chief Cabinet Secretary, Mr Masaharu Gotoda, said: "We deeply regret the acts of outrage which constitute a grave challenge to democracy. We intend to instruct our police force to step up security measures to prevent a recurrence of similar incidents."

Moscow will continue its test ban

Geneva — In calling yet again for an end to underground nuclear tests, the Soviet Union said yesterday that by last week's detonation, the US was showing a "total disregard" for the opinions of the rest of the world and of a significant part of public opinion in the US itself (Alan McGregor writes).

Mr Victor Ismailyan, Soviet delegate at the 40-nation UN Disarmament Conference, said all five previous US Administrations had supported a comprehensive test ban. He made it clear the Soviet moratorium, due to end on March 31, would continue at least until the US carried out a further test.

The US delegate, Mr Donald Lewis, said "testing supports the maintenance of the nuclear deterrent on which the US and its allies depend".

Police swamp black township after two constables die

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Heavy police reinforcements were rushed to the black South African township of Crossroads yesterday after two constables — one of them white — were shot and killed. The body of the white policeman, who had been suspended from duty for suspected drug dealing, was found early yesterday on a road near Crossroads, a squatter camp outside Cape Town. He had been shot and stripped of his body.

According to some reports Constable R. Spannenberg had been "necklaced" — burned to death with a petrol-filled tyre round his neck, the form of township execution frequently used on suspected informers and "collaborators".

Police headquarters in Pretoria said they suspected that he was inside Crossroads when he was attacked.

The second policeman, a black constable, was shot a few hours later by a sniper near the murder spot as he jumped from a Casspir armoured personnel carrier in what ap-

peared to be a cleverly-prepared ambush. As senior CID men gathered where Constable Spannenberg's body was found, the Casspir crew moved off to where two trucks were blazing. Shots believed to have been fired from a Soviet AK47 semi-automatic rifle rang out as the police jumped from the vehicle and the black constable was killed instantly by a bullet in the head.

The police yelled "pasop" (look out) as they hurriedly took cover and began firing back. Some climbed on the roofs of shanties as other Casspirs drove into the squalid township. Reporters ordered out of the area heard more firing as they left.

The two deaths brought the number of policemen killed in political violence this year to 14, three of them whites. Two white policemen were killed by a mob at the Westonaria gold mine near Johannesburg in January. Last year 16 policemen, all blacks, were killed in township unrest.

Police also reported yesterday that they had shot and killed a suspected African National Congress guerrilla in Kaitshong township near Germiston, east of Johannesburg. They said the man came at them with a hand-grenade when they raided a house after a tip-off from other blacks. AK47 rifles, ammunition and parts for limpet mines were found in the house, police said.

There were also clashes in the Vaal Triangle townships south-east of Johannesburg as groups of youths stoned buses and hurled petrol bombs in an attempt to enforce a work stoppage called over the arrests of participants in an 18-month rent boycott.

● Colonel dies: A colonel of the South West Africa Territory Force, Commandant Charles Hochapfel, aged 44, has died in a Pretoria military hospital from wounds sustained in a clash with South West African People's Organisation guerrillas earlier this month.

Doubt on Deng's retiring hint

Hong Kong — Political observers here do not expect Mr Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese leader, to step down, despite his hints that he is considering it. (David Bonavia writes).

Mr Deng was quoted in reports from Peking as telling Mr Poul Schluter, the visiting Danish Prime Minister, that he had deliberately kept out of the limelight for the past three months to lend more author-

ity to his likely successors. It was thought he was referring particularly to Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Prime Minister. However, Mr Deng is 82 and is known to want to retire as soon as he can safely hand over power to Mr Zhao and Mr Hu Yaobang, the party Secretary-General, as well as several others who are being groomed for leadership. ● Zhao's pledge: In his ad-

dress to this year's National People's Congress, Mr Zhao promised to boost living standards and gave details of a new five-year plan, under which the Government would ease controls on prices, let mismanaged firms go bankrupt and link bonuses to productivity, as part of the development of "socialism with Chinese characteristics" (Reuters reports).

Furore at Spielberg Oscar cold shoulder

From Ivor Davis
Hollywood

The 58th annual Oscar show will go down in Hollywood history as much for the failure of Steven Spielberg's *The Colour Purple*, which was left completely out in the cold, as for the triumph of director Sydney Pollack, whose magnificently pastoral picture *Out of Africa* collected seven Oscars.

At the start of the long evening *Out of Africa*, the \$20 million (\$20 million) old-style Hollywood epic romance based on the life and writings of Baroness Karen von Blixen, otherwise known as Danish story-teller extraordinary Isak Dinesen, and starring Meryl Streep, Robert Redford, Klaus Maria Brandauer, was up for 11 Oscars.

So was its chief rival, *The Colour Purple*, director Spielberg's controversial box office hit based on Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning book and starring newcomer Whoopi Goldberg.

By the time it was all over the scoreline read: *Out of Africa*, seven; *The Colour Purple*, nil. The voting showed quite clearly how unimpressed academy members were by Spielberg's film. Nor were they moved by the future over the fact that, although the picture had 11 nominations, Spielberg's directing talents were overlooked completely.

Never before in the long history of the Oscars has a film with so many nominations come away without a solitary statuette.

But Spielberg was not the only big loser in a night of unpredictable results. Two other big favourites also fared disappointingly. *Prizzi's Hon-*



Geraldine Page, the actress, and Sydney Pollack, the director, after receiving their Oscars.

our, the black comedy about a hit man and his assassin wife, started with eight nominations but won only one award, that for Angelica Huston as best supporting actress. The film was directed by veteran filmmaker John Huston, who had to be content with his daughter's victory.

Australian director Peter Weir's stylish thriller *Witness*, which also had eight nominations, won two Oscars, including one for screenplay.

The best actor award went to William Hurt, certainly no household name in Hollywood, for his brilliant portrayal of the homosexual inmate in the Brazilian-made film *Kiss*

of the Spider Woman. And it was a night of triumph for the veteran actress Geraldine Page, who has been nominated nine times in the last 25 years. She won the best actress trophy for her role as the ageing woman yearning to return to her Texas home in *Trip To Italy*. Both those low-budget films were produced without major studio money and blessings.

Another veteran of the Hollywood scene, Don Ameche, won best supporting actor for his role in *Cocoon*.

Ironically, however, the leading story in the aftermath of the awards was the fact that Spielberg had been so ignored

by Oscar voters. For Spielberg, the most commercially successful filmmaker of the last 25 years in Hollywood, his involvement in *The Colour Purple* had been widely regarded as a bid for legitimacy and acknowledgment from the film community.

It was yet another slap in the face for the young director whose *ET*, the highest-grossing picture in Hollywood history, was passed over by the academy in 1982. Many believe that Spielberg's enormous commercial successes have prompted an unusually harsh critical and peer backlash, as witnessed at Monday night's ceremonies.

Reagan emergency aid for Honduras

From Christopher Thomas
Washington

President Reagan approved emergency military assistance of \$20 million (\$13 million) to Honduras yesterday to help to repel a large offensive by Nicaraguan troops against American-backed guerrillas operating from bases inside Honduran territory. The attack, according to diplomats and others in Latin

America, appears to be the largest anti-rebel operation conducted by Sandinista troops since their operations five years ago.

US officials said Mr Reagan's action was in response to a request from Honduran authorities on Monday night. The President had notified appropriate members of Congress that he

intended to exercise his emergency authority under the Foreign Assistance Act to provide Honduras with material, training and services.

The material includes air-defence weapons, conventional ordnance, spare parts and armaments for helicopters. The US is anxious to play up the Nicaraguan attack in the hope that it will encourage a reluctant House of Repre-

sentatives to support President Reagan's request for substantial military aid.

White House officials said up to 1,500 Nicaraguan troops had penetrated 16 miles into Honduras in an attempt to wipe out rebel camps. Reports from Mexico supported that figure. The troops are said to have moved into El Paraiso province in Honduras on Saturday.

Russians almost ready to launch first space shuttle

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The Soviet Union has made progress in its space plane and space shuttle programmes, and the first flight of a Soviet shuttle is expected late this year or in 1987, according to a Pentagon report published yesterday.

The report, *Soviet Military Power - 1986*, says that the Soviet Union had carried out successful test flights of the new medium-lift booster that will carry a manned space plane into orbit. Testing is under way for the heavy-lift booster, designed to send aloft Moscow's space shuttle as well as space station payloads of more than 100 tonnes.

This fifth annual report, issued by Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, also says that by the mid-1990s nearly all Soviet strategic nuclear attack forces now deployed will have been replaced by more advanced systems.

The 157-page glossy report, with numerous colour photographs of the latest Soviet missiles, bombers and submarines, as well as charts and maps, says that Moscow is continuing to work on advanced strategic defence technology. By the end of this decade it may well advance to the testing of lasers for targeting ballistic missiles in flight.

Within the past year, the Soviet Union, as well as deploying 70 SS25s, has continued testing the SSX24 mobile intercontinental ballistic missile. The fourth Typhoon and the third Delta and IV class strategic ballistic missile submarines have also been launched.

Over the next ten years, the Soviet Union is likely to deploy 2,000 to 3,000 air, sea and ground-launched nuclear-armed cruise missiles. Its new 65,000-tonne aircraft carrier is

also due for its first sea trials in the late 1980s.

On space, the report says that at least 70 per cent of Soviet space launches are purely military, supporting both defensive and offensive operations. In 1985 some 100 Soviet space launches overshadowed America's 15 or so. The Soviet Union now operates several space-based reconnaissance and surveillance systems.

A heavy-lift booster system will apparently be used to launch the Soviet shuttle orbiter, a spacecraft similar to the American shuttle, it says. This system would be able to carry very heavy payloads of about 100,000 kg.

These disclosures come in the wake of the Challenger explosion and reports that NASA is now planning to devote most shuttle flights to military missions once launchings resume.



Princess Anne visiting the Christ of Corcovado statue that overlooks Rio de Janeiro at the start of a private Brazil tour.

Japanese 'opening' shuts out foreign lawyers

From David Watts
Tokyo

The Japanese Government will soon respond to requests to allow foreign legal practices in Japan by announcing a new law so restrictive that some foreigners are wishing they had never asked for it.

The United States and EEC have been making last-minute representations but there are unlikely to be significant changes in the law before it is approved for presentation to the Diet later this week. It is a graphic example of the response of the Japanese to the prospect of foreign competi-

tion in a limited area such as the law, where cultural and linguistic differences present formidable challenges to foreigners. The Government, backed by the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, has decided to restrict access severely to a market which will grow rapidly as Japanese business and financial institutions become more involved internationally.

The "market opening" measure, part of the package promised last July, will introduce a far less liberal law than that in force before 1955 and one which will disqualify most international lawyers and those who have taken the time and trouble to study Japanese law and language and who have built up experience in Japanese practices.

One of the federation of bar association's main concerns, according to Mr Ichiro Kugisawa, its secretary-general, is that full liberalization would mean that Japanese law practices could be swamped by the superior financial clout of American law offices. They are also concerned about foreign lawyers "controlling" Japanese lawyers.

"The whole thing is ridiculous," one foreign lawyer said. "The Japanese will be laughed at when this law comes out. It's like some kind of nasty trick."

The provisions causing most foreign anguish are: ● Foreign lawyers will be allowed to practise only the law of their native country or state; ● They must have five years' experience outside Japan before they are allowed access; ● They will not be allowed to employ Japanese lawyers and must be resident in the country for six months of the year.

Britain and the EEC in general are particularly concerned about the narrow scope of activities which will be permitted to foreign lawyers and the demand for five years' experience outside the country. Foreign lawyers practising in Britain face no such restrictions and may open a practice immediately on qualifying as long as they satisfy immigration requirements.

Not only will the pool of experienced young lawyers who have worked in Japan be eliminated but, in the EEC's view, the five-year provision is likely to attract poorer lawyers who have failed to make the grade in their own countries.

"As a response to the prospect of Japan becoming an international financial and business centre it is disappointing. The Japanese Government has missed an opportunity," a European diplomat said. "But this law is better than no law at all."

ABBEE NATIONAL BUILDING SOCIETY

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The rate of interest charged for loans on private dwellings for owner-occupation, whatever the size of the loan, is now:

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- The rates of interest charged on existing loans will be reduced from 1st April 1986.
- Differential rates charged for endowment mortgages will be removed with effect from 1st April 1986.
- Borrowers will be advised of the effects of the above changes in due course.

Full written details of the Society's mortgage facilities are available from your local branch or the address below.

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With effect from 1st April 1986 the following rates of interest will apply to investment accounts both new and existing.

	Net Rate	Gross Equivalent*
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\$50,000 up to \$1,000	7.75%	10.92%
\$2,000 up to \$4,000	8.00%	11.27%
\$5,000 up to \$9,999	8.25%	11.62%
\$10,000 plus	8.50%	11.97%
CHEQUE-SAVE ACCOUNTS		
Up to \$2,499	4.50%	6.34%
\$2,500 up to \$9,999	7.85%	11.06%
\$10,000 up to \$24,999	8.09%	11.39%
\$25,000 plus	8.50%	11.97%
SHARE ACCOUNTS	6.00%	8.45%
HIGHER INTEREST ACCOUNTS	8.50%	11.97%
SEVEN DAY (existing ACCOUNTS investors)	7.61%	10.72%

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* Where Income Tax is paid at a basic rate of 29%.

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Swiss give asylum to deserter

Bern (Reuters) — Switzerland has reversed an earlier decision and agreed to grant asylum to a Soviet army deserter who spent two years in the West before being captured by rebels in Afghanistan, the Justice Ministry said.

Yuri Povarovits, 24, who alleged on Swiss television last year that he would be imprisoned and shot if forced to go home, first applied for asylum in 1984 but his request was turned down. He is now working in a factory near Lausanne.

Of 11 Soviet soldiers interned here, one is still held, seven decided to go home, one sought asylum in West Germany, and another has been given a Swiss residence permit.

Train blaze

Colombo (Reuters) — Tamil guerrillas set fire to a passenger train in Sri Lanka's Northern Province, after they had ordered off the passengers.

Advice order

Singapore (Reuters) — Singapore is to make it mandatory for all women seeking abortion to undergo counselling by doctors first.

Plant blast

Issore, France (AP) — An explosion tore through a smelting plant, killing at least one worker, injuring 15 others and destroying the building. Three others were missing.

Once bitten

Lagos (UPI) — So many students and teachers have been attacked by deadly snakes at the University of Sekoto in northwest Nigeria lately that a snake charmer will be called in to help deal with the reptiles.

Haven closing

Singapore (Reuters) — Singapore, regarded by western nations as a haven for music and computer pirates, has introduced a new copyright Bill.

Ban sought

Auckland (Reuters) — Two French agents convicted for their roles in the Rainbow Warrior sinking are seeking a High Court injunction to stop Television New Zealand screening film of their trial.

Philippines constitution suspended

Aquino scraps Parliament and takes wide powers

From Keith Dalton, Manila

President Corason Aquino, marking her first month in power, abolished the Philippines Parliament yesterday, declared a provisional government and gave herself sweeping emergency powers for at least six months.

In a nationally televised address, Mrs Aquino suspended the 1973 martial law constitution, under which deposed President Marcos drew his autocratic powers, and announced that an interim "freedom constitution" would take immediate effect, incorporating some of the uncontroversial features of the old charter.

A constitutional commission of no more than 50 men and women will be appointed by Mrs Aquino to draw up a new constitution within three months.

This will then be ratified by the people in a plebiscite prior to elections — all within one year of yesterday's proclamation.

"I have listened with care to the arguments about the form in which we should conduct our political affairs while we put in place a new permanent constitution," Mrs Aquino told a press conference.

"Now, today, I am announcing an interim constitution under which our shattered nation can take shelter after years of dictatorship in order to heal its wounds, restore its strength and enjoy the first fruits of its new-found freedom."

In her prepared statement Mrs Aquino promised to exercise her sweeping legislative powers judiciously and with the assistance of the Cabinet.

The Justice Minister, Mr Nepali Gonzales, who read out the full Proclamation Number Three, said later that

these powers would be subject to two judicial reviews.

Mrs Aquino, who was swept to power on February 25 after Mr Marcos left the country, said her aim was to strip the country of the last vestiges of the 20-year Marcos regime.

Mr Gonzales announced that the priorities of the new government were the complete reorganization of government, protection of civil, political, human, social and economic rights, the recovery of the ill-gotten overseas wealth of Mr Marcos and his

associates and the eradication of graft and corruption.

Referring to her dissolution of the 190-member National Assembly — nominated by the party of Mr Marcos — Mrs Aquino said the Parliament had "pillaged our politics" as Mr Marcos's business cronies had "pillaged our economy".

Using its majority, the assembly last month rubber-stamped the proclamation of Mr Marcos as winner of the presidential election on February 7, ignoring opposition charges of massive vote buying and cheating.

That proclamation still stands and although the Assembly — in an obvious gesture of self-survival — has offered to recognize Mrs Aquino as President and work with her, she has chosen to ignore it.

A new, popularly-elected parliament is needed, she said. "If political power is to be returned to its proper limits, and our society cleansed of the crime and repression of recent years, we must cut out the cancer of our political system."

Rebel ceasefire offer

From Keith Dalton, Manila

Manila — Communist Party officials and guerrillas said for the first time yesterday that they were prepared to begin talks, without preconditions, on an eventual nationwide ceasefire after 17 years of fighting (Keith Dalton writes).

If the ceasefire held a "political settlement" was possible, provided President Aquino's administration carried out the radical changes needed for national reconciliation, a left-wing leader, Mr Antonio Zamal, told journalists at a secret press conference north of Manila.

The unexpected announcement came as military headquarters reported the "mass surrender" of 1,000 Communist rebels and sympathizers on Central Negros Island.

Mr Zamal, a leader of the underground umbrella group, the National Democratic Front, said his organization, with the outlawed Communist Party and its military wing, the New People's Army, was prepared to hold ceasefire talks at a mutually agreed venue.



Protesters demanding a civilian government in Haiti set fire to rubbish at a road junction in Port-au-Prince.

Barricades set ablaze in Haiti protest

Port-au-Prince (Reuters) — Mobs of youths set alight piles of rubbish at scores of road junctions throughout the Haitian capital to press demands for a civilian government.

Firemen and soldiers tackled the burning barricades on Monday night. Police fired pistols into the air in one poor district, but there were no reports of injuries.

The fires ended a day of anti-Government protests that began with a peaceful march by as many as 15,000

people, most of them young. Lieutenant-General Henri Namphy, President of the ruling council that took over after dictator Jean Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier fled the country last month, renewed a pledge to move the country towards democracy.

On Friday, the 53-year-old career soldier, who has the backing of the United States, dismissed three members of the council with past links to Mr Duvalier or his more notorious father, Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier.

He also announced ministerial appointments viewed by Western diplomats and political observers as another in a series of efforts to stem the public outcry against the military-dominated rule.

Both the morning marchers and those who started the fires said they would continue to demonstrate for the establishment of a civilian government.

A newly-formed group of

Beach house move for the Marcoses

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

Mr Ferdinand Marcos and his wife Imelda have moved into a \$1.5 million Honolulu beach house after spending a month at the heavily-guarded Hickam Air Base in Hawaii.

The quiet move on Monday night came amid investigations in the Philippines and the US into the alleged misuse of millions of dollars by the former Philippines President during his 20-year rule.

The beach house, which has a one-bedroom cottage on its extensive grounds, was searched by a bomb squad before the couple took residence. Local estate agents said they did not think they would live there for long.

Mr Marcos had been expected to move to Panama earlier this month but authorities there decided at the last moment they did not want him.

Meanwhile, a Customs Service inventory showed that Mr Marcos took about \$7.7 million in booty to Hawaii, mainly diamonds, emeralds,

rubies, sapphires, pearls, gold and silver.

The inventory was released in New York by Senator Jovito Salonga, chairman of the Philippines Commission on Good Government, in a bid by President Aquino's administration to recover property Mr Marcos reportedly owns in New York.

Included in the inventory were details of the baggage carried by the 90-member Marcos party on their flight to Honolulu.

Over 400 items were loaded into 12 suitcases and attaché cases, 22 boxes containing about \$1.2 million in Philippines pesos and a pocket calculator.

The most expensive single listing was \$1,487,415 for "one set, comprised of one bracelet, one pair of earrings and one brooch consisting of sapphires, rubies, diamonds".

The most expensive of the items was estimated to be worth \$58,286.

The smallest amount listed was \$5 for a fountain pen.

India and US in joint drugs fight

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

The United States and India have announced the formation of a joint working party to tackle the growing trade in drugs between the two countries.

Mr Edwin Meese, the US Attorney-General, who is visiting India, described the country this week as primarily a transit post for illegal drugs, located between two areas where illicit narcotics are grown.

The joint group will develop policies for co-operation in training and sharing information. Mr Meese also indicated that customs officers from each country would be allowed to operate in the other.

He was less positive, however, about the supply of drugs to India from Afghan poppy fields under the control of tribes supported by US aid to the guerrillas.

Mr Meese, who met Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister, and other Indian Government officials, has also discussed the growth of international terrorist activities and announced that a joint study will be made of the present extradition treaty between the two countries.

● ISLAMABAD: Pakistan was assured of US military and economic assistance beyond the present 1987 deadline when Mr William Schneider, US Under-Secretary of State for Security Assistance, announced a package of aid for 1987-93, amounting to \$4.02 billion (£2.68 billion), subject to congressional approval (Hasan Akhtar writes).

Ten killed in Sikh vengeance

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

At least 10 people died in the battered state of Punjab as Sikh terrorists took revenge on Hindu counter-agitators or simply random Hindus working peacefully in the fields.

There were four deaths in a shoot-out between Sikh gunmen and paramilitary police.

Escalating violence has led to further communal clashes between Sikhs and the Hindu chauvinists of the Shiv Sena (the Army of the god Shiva).

Outside the industrial city of Jullunder, which has been labouring under curfew since March 17, there was a clash between Shiv Sena workers and police, and later two brothers who were both activists in the movement were shot dead in the shop they owned. Police said they were killed by three youths.

The curfew was extended to the whole of the old city of Jullunder after the two deaths. The neighbouring town of Nakodar also remained under curfew.

Terrorists on a motorcycle shot dead two people in a field outside Batala, but the week-long siege of the town by extremists of the All-India Sikh Students' Federation and the United Akali Dal was lifted by security forces.

They fanned out around the town and cleared six of the 10 roads blocked by sword-wielding young men.

Security forces yesterday cordoned off Matawal village, 12 miles from the Sikhs' holiest town of Amritsar, after an encounter in which two terrorists and two policemen died.

Bangladesh poll split

From Ahmed Fazl, Dhaka

Political parties in Bangladesh opposed to the military Government of President Ershad are sharply divided over participation in parliamentary elections set for May 7.

Begum Khaleda Zia, leader of a seven-party opposition coalition, has accused the rival 15-party alliance of betrayal. The 15-party alliance, led by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, decided to join the election, to be supervised under martial law.

Mrs Zia yesterday told a public rally attended by more than 20,000 supporters in the capital that elections without the prior lifting of martial law would only legitimize an illegal military government.

The rally, called by the opposition as part of a "black day" marking the fourth anniversary of martial law, also heard Mrs Zia accuse the 15-party alliance of stabbing the anti-government movement in the back.



Nelson's flagship

A superb win for Nelson Piquet, in blistering heat, at the Brazilian Grand Prix on Sunday.

Frank Williams' team has done it again — with a rare blend of talent, teamwork and technology.

Mobil advanced synthetic lubricants are part of the Williams' winning formula. These synthetic oils and greases perform well anywhere — in aviation, marine and truck engines,

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THE ARTS

Television
Carrying
on going

Until last night the name H.W. Tilman was unfamiliar to me. In fact, watching John Mead's documentary on this explorer's life, *No Pay, No Prospects, Not Much Pleasure* (HTV), I had, on at least two occasions, an uneasy feeling that the whole enterprise was a spoof.

It began with a parade in a small Italian town, celebrating Tilman Day. Quite what the shy Major had done in 1944 to merit this accolade remained obscure. We then had a résumé of his extraordinary career: a distinguished soldier of two world wars, a tea-planter in Kenya who once rode across Africa on a bicycle, a mountaineer who scaled the Himalayas and, from 1954 (when an ad for a shipmate was placed in this paper with the programme title), a sailor to the uttermost parts of the earth. Then in 1977, aged 79, he sailed from Rio and was never seen again.

Judging from several interviews with former crew-members and climbers, Tilman was an uncompromising autocrat with the temper of the cold south wind. Some remarkable home-movies, shot with direct clumsiness, showed him stately puffing a pipe, in the posture of a walrus with a frosted moustache. Like dots charting out a map, the resulting film was as evanescent as Tilman would have wished.

The photographer Don McCullin is happier among humans. In *Home Front* (Arena, BBC2), he journeyed without commentary to Bradford, Harlow and the East End. In the steady, clearly-focused company of the cameraman Philip Bonham Carter, McCullin made a bee-line for those living in modern poverty: both the poverty of squalor in Bradford council flats and the poverty of imagination in Harlow's shopping centre.

Despite the impact of certain images — a girl with chopped wood, a skinhead with a tattoo — there was a sense this territory was over-familiar to McCullin. Halfway through, the format of knocking on arbitrary urban doors took on the dereliction of the subject within.

Nicholas Shakespeare

The British premiere of parts of Olivier Messiaen's opera *St François d'Assise* is given tonight in the Festival Hall and broadcast on Radio 3: here the composer, in an exclusive interview, tells Paul Griffiths something of the work's genesis

The song of the heavens resounding

Olivier Messiaen, photographed at rehearsal this week by Dod Miller

It is hard to write about Olivier Messiaen without making him sound like a plaster saint, but his sweetness of temperament, his composure and his modesty are sublimely untouched by anything of modern doubt or self-promotion. If anybody else were to mention Monteverdi, Rameau, Mozart, Wagner, Mussorgsky, Debussy and Berg as the only operatic composers to merit consideration beside his own work, the effect would be one of unpalatable arrogance, but Messiaen speaks with such open sincerity that objection is silenced.

During the course of our conversation I suggested he had made things difficult for himself in *Saint François d'Assise* in bringing an angel on to the stage, since no soprano of flesh and blood could live up to his own description of the heavenly visitor as "a beautiful, enigmatic butterfly". But his response was more puzzled than reproving. He had gone to the Uffizi, seen an excellent angel in an *Annunciation* by Fra Angelico, and made that the pattern for his costume design. What could be more obvious?

Everything about his work he describes as if it were similarly self-evident. When he was asked by Rolf Liebermann to write a work for the Paris Opéra, the subject had of course to be religious. "My dream was to make a *Passion* and *Resurrection*, but I think it is impossible to put Christ on the stage: that is something *trop beau*. So I chose a man who was not

God, but who most resembled Christ in being chaste, poor and humble, and in receiving Christ's wounds. Also, St Francis is dear to me because I am an ornithologist, and he loved and preached to the birds. Having made that choice, I left out everything that was secondary to the progress of grace in his soul. I left out the dispute between father and son, on account of its being too psychoanalytical, and I left out St Clare, the interviews with the Pope and the voyage to Egypt."

The first of the three scenes to be performed in tonight's concert is "The Kissing of the Leper". "One sees a leper who is not only horribly disfigured but also wicked. St Francis, despite his revulsion, approaches and talks to him, and gradually he is inwardly transformed. St Francis also is transformed, and embraces the leper. Double miracle: the leper is cured, and Francis becomes St Francis from that moment." One then passes in this concert selection to the last act.

"St Francis is alone in a cave, and he asks to understand the sufferings of Christ. There is a choir which is the voice of Christ, and which grants him the same wounds to be reproduced in his body. The scene is a terrible one, because the whole first part expresses a sensation of extreme anguish, but then that suffering is transformed into an extraordinary celestial joy, because St Francis is profoundly happy at this sign that he has been

chosen by God. Then in the last scene St Francis is exhausted by penance, by privations and also by the stigma. He bids farewell to his brothers and to the birds, and the angel and the leper reappear to lead him into Paradise. The choir sings of the Resurrection, transforming St Francis's theme into a chorale of glory."

For Messiaen, charmingly touched as he is by the present run of concert performances, the work remains essentially one for the theatre. "It is a work I imagined with décor, people on stage, costumes — and also an individual who is very important: the orchestra, which is part of the action, because one sees some of the instruments on the stage." That at least was how the work was presented in Paris, in a production with which Messiaen professes himself happy, except for the lack of birds for St Francis's sermon to them. I suggested that the work might profit from a more stylized treatment, looking towards Japanese theatre.

"That is possible: I would not say no. In Tokyo the three scenes were performed in a semi-scenic version in the Catholic cathedral, with the singers in costume and the angel high in the organ-loft. That was better than a concert performance, but I would prefer to see it in a theatre."

Might his experience in the theatre now lead him to a second opera? "You know, I worked on *Saint François* for eight years. I am now 77: I have to think of smaller works." As to what those smaller works might be, he is unforthcoming. "I never speak of things until they are finished."

We turned to works of the past, and to Messiaen's often misunderstood statements about transcribing colours and birdsongs into his music. "When I read or listen to music I see colours inwardly, not with my eyes but in my head. Every sound-complex has a corresponding colour." For everyone, or just for him? "For me. I think the correspondences exist for everyone, but they will vary from person to person."

I point out that blue is associated with A major in his music, but with F sharp major in Scriabin's. "Oh yes? But then I am by no means a disciple of Scriabin." As for the birds: "I take down the songs with pencil and paper, quite simply as musical dictation, but afterwards I transform them into my music. Of course, I always arrange them in some way: I am not a tape-recorder."

I asked finally which works he now feels closest to. "Those that I think are most representative, because they contain colours, because they contain birds, and because they contain my religious faith too, are *La Transfiguration*, *Des Canyons aux étoiles*... and *Saint François*. I also love the *Vingt Regards* and the *Méditations sur le mystère de la Sainte Trinité*. Some works may be better, some worse, but whatever I have done is sincere."

It is, moreover, the apostles' frailties and flaws that receive deepest consideration, and a strength of this performance was that the three figures most sensitively drawn by Elgar were excellently characterized.

Stafford Dean's Judas grew weightier and more compelling as the traitor's mood grew blacker. He was simply the odd man out during the Beatitudes, but conjoined a chasm of nihilism as his suicide approached. Jonathan Summers invested Peter with simple dignity, while Alfreda Hodgson, repeating in the Tower of Magdala, was rich-toned and eloquent.

Others were less convincing. Stephen Roberts found his best voice right at the end, in the Ascension scene, but his earlier ascensions above the bass staff had been less than miraculous. Isobel Buchanan rarely achieved the requisite tonal purity for the saintly soprano roles.

Initially Andrew Davis's conducting seemed unresponsive to the subtly shifting moods of this motif-laden score. As the drama of Part II unfolded, however, his restrained but often beautiful dynamic shading became increasingly persuasive. Those anguished brass chords in the betrayal scene gained in intensity precisely because Davis kept his forces subdued elsewhere. He also coaxed the Philharmonia Chorus to some fine, controlled singing.

Richard Morrison

Concerts

Friends well characterized

Philharmonia/
Davis
Festival Hall/
Radio 3

In some respects Elgar's *The Apostles* parallels the "Enigma" Variations of four years earlier. The oratorio also has its "larger theme": the passage of Christ's teaching, crucifixion and resurrection. But Elgar, for whatever reason, refers only obliquely to these events (the commonly accepted explanation that he found the crucifixion "too painful to contemplate" begs too many questions). He prefers to concentrate, as in the Variations, on the "friends pictured within".

Timothy Wilson
Purcell Room

Timothy Wilson began his recital perched, jester-like, on a stool opposite his luteist, and ended it leaning against a Steinway, singing Schubert's "Litanei", as an encore, as if Lieder were what he knew and loved best in all the world. It was typical of his self-image: as early musician, as opera-actor, as Lieder recitalist, in short as singer first and counter-tenor second.

Not that the voice itself is by any means incidental. He knows its unusually wide range, its mellow changing colours, and its apparently effortless integration of registers, inside out. And he uses it with a total lack of cliché or manner which is as compelling as it is refreshing.

As an Ariel or Feste, he tuned his audience's ears anew to the skill of the Elizabethans, Robert Johnson and Thomas Morley. His "Full fathom five" showed no need to play the obvious acoustic game with its "ding-dong-bell" refrain: the tolling had already begun in his deep-anchored opening, so perfectly weighted and placed. No need, either, to wait for the refrain of "It was a lover": the cross-rhythms in each verse, springing out in his clean, agile diction, had already started the dance. Dorothy Linell, who had two most enjoyable solo lute spots of her own, was a keen-eared accompanist.

Wilson crossed from the artful contrivance of the lute to the contrived artifice of Tippet's *Songs for Ariel* by way of Wolfgang Fortner. The early 1946 Shakespeare songs

of Henze's teacher certainly deserve to be programmed more often, alongside, say, the Brahms and Strauss Shakespeare settings. Wilson and his pianist, Stephen Naylor, made much of the hypnotic recurring figure which turns back on itself throughout the bare "Willow, willow", and emphasized the harmonic astringency of "O Mistress Mine".

The evening ended with no less stylish Shakespeare in the Arthur Young settings popularized by Laine and Dankworth.

Hilary Finch

Theatre
Slings and arrows

The Man of Mode
Donmar Warehouse

Etherege's best-known comedy comes with the usual patronage-begging dedication followed by the rudest prologue anywhere in Restoration drama. By way of inviting the house to have a good night out, it concludes: "Since each of you is fond of his own ugly face, why should you, when we hold it, break the glass?" Declan Donnellan, in this second production in the Cheek by Jowl season, has seized on this couplet (not, incidentally, by Etherege, but by one Sir Car Scroope) as a key to the play.

On a stage floor resembling a horizontal dashboard, the company first appears, gathered around the bull's-eye, favouring us with hostile looks and spitting out the prologue in tones of the utmost distaste. Thereafter, they retire into a looking-glass world, applauding each other after each scene, and studiously ignoring all signs of appreciation from the house.

The show is as well-drilled as a piece of clockwork; and its incessant circular moves and chases, plus the trick of freezing several groups in postures of desire or amazement while another group jerks into speech and motion, insistently suggest the operation of a wind-up toy. It is an impressive spectacle, especially as Mr Donnellan also knows how to vary his rhythms and extract

unsuspected atmospheres from the superficially cold-blooded text.

There is one particularly beautiful moment after the masquerade party, when all the women retire for the night, and the men are left alone briefly to forget about sexual rivalry and get down to a quiet drink as they watch the dawn breaking. Moments of that kind are additionally welcome as you can understand what is going on. The big disadvantage of playing a Restoration intrigue in the abstract, and with a doubling company, is that whatever outline the plot might present with conventional décor becomes obliterated in a busily undefined choreography.

It must also be said that there are not many laughs left in the play when Cheek by Jowl have done with it. The men are reduced to moral ciphers: walking embodiments of vulpine rapacity or senile lust, with no fun or mischief to bring you half into sympathy with them. The women, from Steph Bramwell's jealous-crazed Lady Woodvil to Leda Hodgson as her two-timing confidante, all suffer like mad. Martin Turner plays Donnam (allegedly based on Rochester) with two expressions, hooded menace and a false grin. David Gillespie succeeds in transforming Sir Fopling Flutter, the much ridiculed fool, into the only sympathetic figure on stage.

Irving Wardle

Moon on a
Rainbow Shawl
Stratford East

Errol John's lightweight domestic comedy of everyday Trinidadian life won the Observer play competition of 1957, was premiered at the Royal Court the next year and has not been seen in these islands since then. That would not appear to have been an important loss to the theatre-going public. Set in 1946, the action develops entirely in a cramped back-yard of wooden shanties in Port of Spain, where we meet a poor family comprising an ageing former fast bowler, his fairly stocky harridan of a wife and their young daughter who has a baby of her own, but no husband.

In the shack next door lives Rosa, a café waitress who, in true soap fashion is carrying on with Ephraim, the handsome trolleybus driver across the way; he in turn finds his nights disturbed by his immediate neighbour, an opportunistic tart making the most of the then American military presence in the Caribbean.

A plot of a kind lurches to the surface when the café is burgled on the night of the veterans' victory celebrations, and Ephraim finds the claustrophobic dead end of his life all too much for him and elects to seek his fortune in

Tony Armstrong's upright and valuable Ephraim

Liverpool. Life will, we gather, go on much the same without him.

Directing his own play for the first time, Mr John is faced with the problem of making the 15 characters come alive in less than 100 minutes of stage time. Tony Armstrong's upright and at times valuable Ephraim works well enough with Jaye Griffiths's more banked-down Rosa, although one cannot but notice that the latter's attempt at a West Indian accent never gets much further west than Wales, while two of the other young players sound markedly London. Barbara Assoon leads the way as the put-upon mother, and Joanne Campbell makes a marvellously vulgar tart.

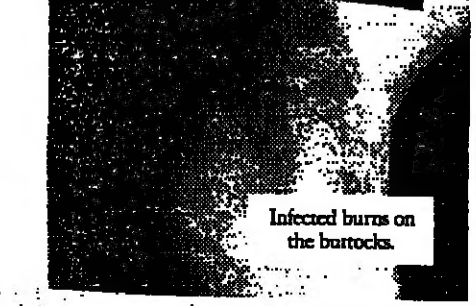
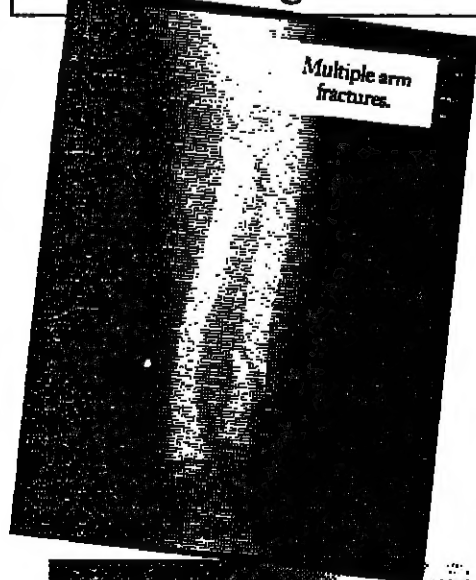
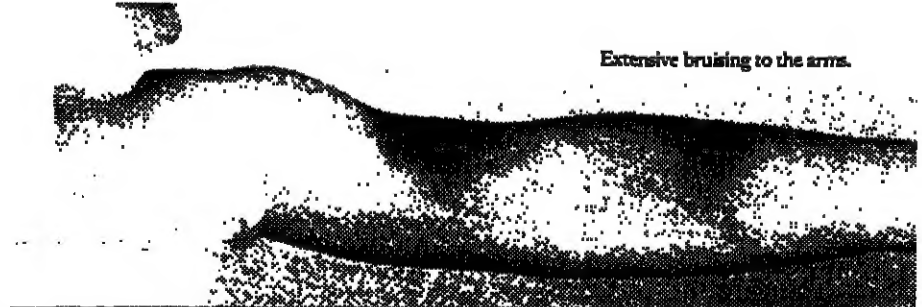
Martin Cropper

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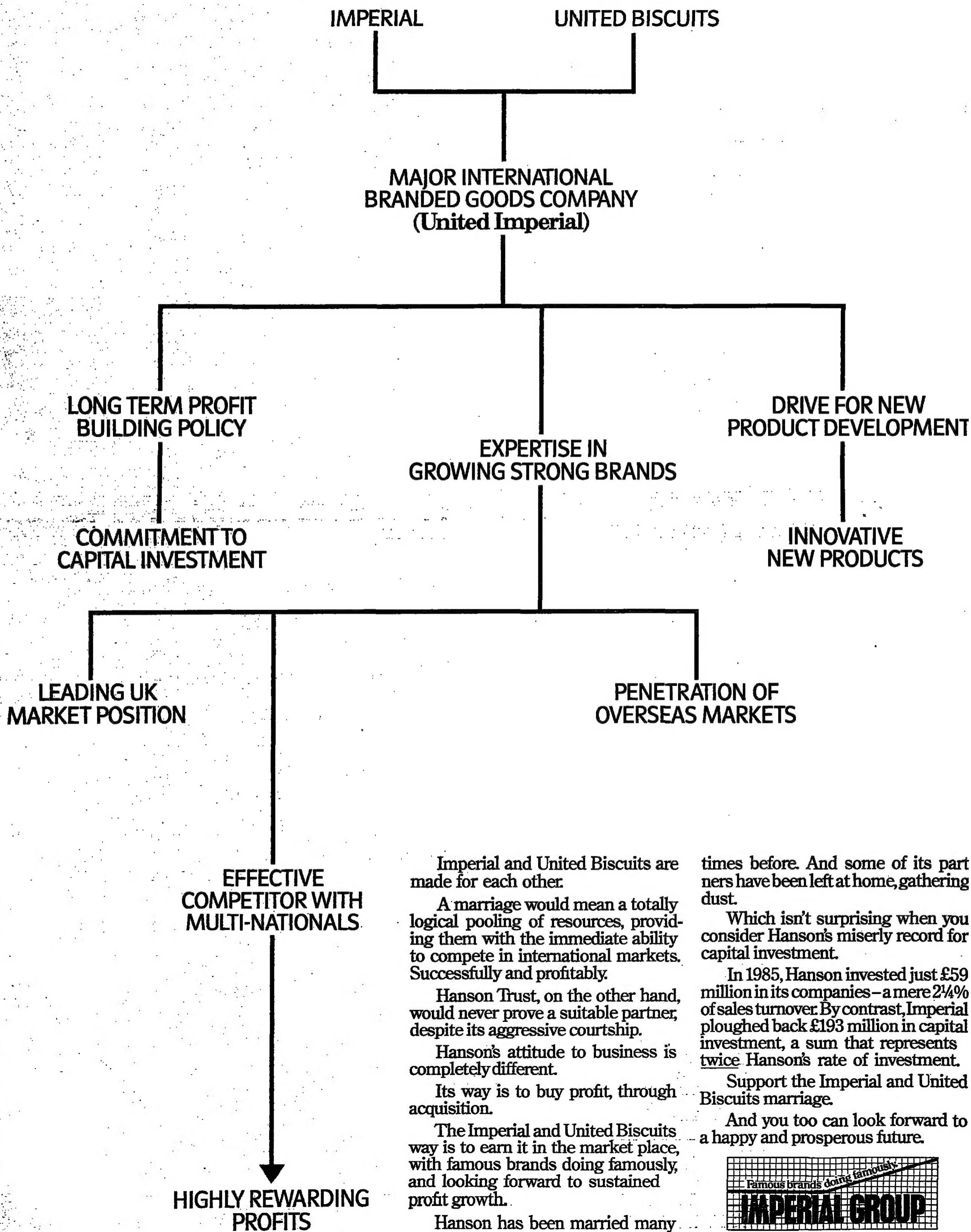
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Can Whitehall stay on the fence?

The Civil Service has survived the Thatcher revolution but the future still poses many threats to its traditions, as Colin Hughes reports in the last part of his series

Civil servants have endured the turmoil of cuts, leaks, secrets trials and trade union tussles with their core instincts and attitudes intact. But can the system withstand the shocks in store?

The well-tried Whitehall method is fine for facing Monday morning: "Get out the file, and see what we did last time." But can civil servants' world-weary pragmatism, born of seeing red turn blue and back again without any obvious change in their day-to-day lives, cope with inexorable pressures that have been mounting for 20 years? Suspensions are growing that their crisis management horizons are too narrow for the day after tomorrow.

Sir Douglas Wass, former Permanent Secretary at the Treasury, is no revolutionary. But he has voiced a widely-felt unease that "recent developments must cause us as a society to examine whether we want to continue with the traditional relationship, the apoliticality of a career Civil Service".

'The Alliance will need a revolution in Whitehall'

Sir John Hoskyns, director-general of the Institute of Directors, has mounted a fierce criticism of government ever since leaving the Downing Street policy unit, challenging the comfortable myths that pervade Whitehall and Westminster. He matches, in many ways, the radical left's long-held belief that the Civil Service stands like a rock-fall barrier in the path of progress.

Hoskyns' argument goes further, starting with the blunt appraisal that Westminster simply does not contain enough people of the brains and ability needed to turn the ship of state, while Whitehall's backward-looking insularity lacks the vision necessary to grapple with an historic transformation in Britain's fortunes.

"When I was head of the policy unit we produced a document which showed that maintaining

present policies could mean average tax levels of 45 per cent a head by the end of the century, while the wealth-creating sector, private and public, was shrinking. The report was leaked, and the Government, Civil Service and politicians between them, backed off from a serious rethink of the Welfare State. But that doesn't mean the problems will go away."

He advocates injecting a fresh body of expertise into government, motivated both by political conviction and the drive to surmount the root of the malaise. It would mean, in effect, "shadow" teams of 10 to 20 officials per department, maintained like private offices in exile at parties' headquarters, at the taxpayer's expense.

Whitehall shrugs its collective shoulders. Sir Robert Armstrong, the Cabinet Secretary, accepts that the neutrality tradition is under strain from political polarization, but insists: "We have by no means reached the point where it's impossible."

But a similar attack is being mounted from new quarters. William Wallace, a Liberal adviser to David Steel, says the Alliance will need to institute "a revolution in Whitehall" if it comes to power. The myth that senior civil servants are natural social democrats under their neutral skin is based on the fallacy that impartial means centrist. Alliance politicians are deluding themselves if they believe Whitehall will respond with special enthusiasm to their ideas.

Wallace emphasizes the major items in the Alliance programme which are bound to meet strong resistance. The Civil Service proved, under the last Labour government, its natural impulse to dig in heels on any attempt to devolve political power from central government. Though many civil servants approve of repealing the Official Secrets Act and putting a Freedom of Information Act in its place, they might balk at a Bill of Rights which gave ordinary citizens undue licence to interfere.

Green environmental policies threaten the habitual philosophies of most main departments. Energy's commitment to pressurized water reactors for nuclear power, Agriculture's sympathy with the farming lobby, Transport's ambitions for lorries



'The winning party's red box will be waiting for it'

Secretary at the DHSS, wryly remarks: "A coalition government would have to hang together as best it could... after all, most Cabinets have an element of coalition about them."

This "so what's new?" scepticism runs deep, and the Alliance response so far is clearly inadequate. The best suggestion is the so-called "Cheshire rules", designed by the ruling group on Cheshire County Council to enable equal access to officials while guaranteeing political confidences. But central government is

a far cry from local authority; council committees have decision-making power, with an opposition representation unknown to the parliamentary constitution.

The Civil Service briefs are already being written for the day after the next general election, one set for each party, carefully kept secret and separate. Whichever party arrives in power the day after polling day, its first red box will be ready and waiting.

Mrs Thatcher was allowed access to selected senior civil servants before 1979, under the convention that policy is not discussed: organization arrangements — such as the practicalities of splitting Trade and Industry, or blending Education and Employment — are the only allowed topics. Opposition leaders and mandarins, if Kinnoch, Steel or Owen come to power, they will be denied sight of this Government's political papers.

Additional force is lent to pressure for overt political appointments into policy advice and administration by Clive Ponting's widely-held view that "the Civil Service is being put increasingly in the position of being the advocate of government policy in public", and outsiders are needed to "break the grip of the administrative class". Austin Mitchell, the Labour MP who is chairing a backbench inquiry into civil servants' duties and responsibilities, says that, although civil servants are coming before Select Committees more often, they merely act as ministers' mouthpieces.

Use of the Civil Service as an instrument of party political power while in government is well-established; the difference, and it is substantial, is that the contradictions are out in the open. Bernard Ingham, the Prime Minister's press secretary, is a civil servant supposedly bound by the tradition of service with "energy but without enthusiasm", but has become publicly identified with Mrs Thatcher personally and politically. He could not survive a change of government in his present post.

While many politicians sympathize with Hoskyns' criticisms of the system, few support his solutions. Labour members remember all too well Harold Wilson's Department of Economic Affairs, which brought in economists and political advisers as a counter to Treasury consensus. Civil servants nicknamed it the Department of Extraordinary Aggression, and left it high and dry.

This government has 22 special "political" advisers, mostly on five-year contracts, based in ministers' private offices around Whitehall. They are bright young Tories or experienced party hacks who act as agents for the minister, helping draft speeches, mixing with career officials in areas of departmental policy-making ministers cannot reach.

The slimmed-down policy unit at Downing Street mixes political advisers with career civil servants, but has nonetheless been seen as a nascent Prime Minister's department.

Eager civil servants, frustrated by the slow system, have been known to use it as an outlet for ideas which are making no headway. As one adviser says: "We do occasionally get discreet telephone calls from principals or under-secretaries who think that, where they have hit a brick wall, we have direct access to power at the centre. It's partly an illusion, but it helps our intelligence gathering: after all, they have a lot more

resources at their disposal and more administrative experience than we have."

Wallace's argument builds on that idea, saying that if all ministers — and maybe even Opposition parties as well — had such mini-departments of their own, it would restore genuine Cabinet government and enable well-informed political criticism. Such democratizing ambitions cut little ice elsewhere.

As one minister says: "The Civil Service is hardly a bionic man, capable of being beefed up into a superstar by transplant. It would simply reject the new organs and leave them to wither."

For the first time, civil servants have ceased to answer criticisms with the argument that Britain's bureaucracy is admired and modelled over the world. Christopher Tugendhat, former European Community Commissioner, says foreigners tend to respect the British system for its efficiency, professionalism, fairness and objectivity.

"People did feel it was a national asset to have a Civil Service that served governments of different parties with equal dedication and professionalism."

But, though the bureaucracy may be good at "doing what it is told to do, that does not mean people would feel our political

'Foreigners tend to respect the British system for its fairness'

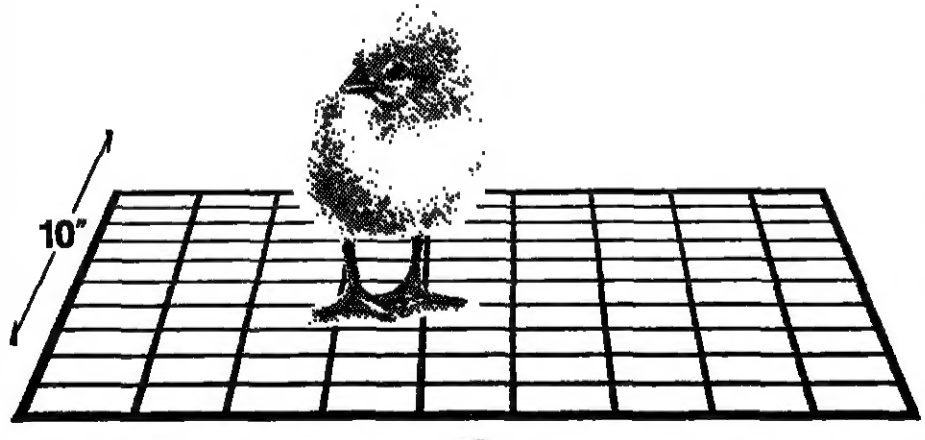
system is necessarily the most effective one going."

A recent exchange between Jim Callaghan and Austin Mitchell at the Civil Service Select Committee inquiry sums up scepticism about the need for change, and the contempt held by critics of the system for its outdated design.

Callaghan was asked, if there were to be a code for ministers describing their duties and responsibilities to civil servants, what should it say? One paragraph, he answered: "It is your responsibility to be polite, to be courteous, to listen what is said to you and absorb it, and be loyal to your Private Office so it can serve you to the best of its ability."

Mitchell retorted: "It sounds like a Boy Scout code." At which Callaghan came back, without a pause: "What's wrong with Boy Scouts? And they belong to the same political party."

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The day of reckoning

A much maligned species can walk tall this year. Other men will commemorate a moment of history, but the estate agents of England can celebrate a monument to their craft. In Domesday they have the greatest prospectus ever compiled.

The fuss is not about heroic deeds or valiant deeds, but about "det bog lge lge full CH". The abbreviations in the Domesday text are the counterpart of today's property columns. This is England in 1086, as Knight, Frank and Rutley might have described it.

The King was opening all his cupboards to inspect his inheritance. William at Gloucester, according to the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, "sent his men all over England, into every shire, and had them find out how many hundred hides

there were in the shire, or what land and cattle the King himself had in the country, or what does he ought to have in twelve months from the shire. Also he had a record made of how much land his archbishops had, and his bishops and his abbots and his earls..."

You can feel the apprehension quickening as the chronicler goes on. "So very narrowly did he have it investigated that there was no single hide, nor a yard of land, nor indeed (it is a shame to relate but it seemed no shame to him

to do) one ox nor one pig which was there left out, and put down in his record; and all these records were brought to him afterwards."

The italics are mine, but you get an idea of what must have been the popular reaction. The auditors were in, and with a vengeance.

The country, apart from the Northern counties where the King's writ still did not run in 1086, was divided into seven circuits, and the Worcester circuit was travelled by the Bishop of Lincoln, Remigius, a clerk and two monks with him, and three prominent laymen.

The questions they asked have survived in the contemporary document known as *The Ely Inquest*. "They inquired what the manor was called; who held it at the time of King Edward; who holds it now; how many hides of land; how many ploughs owned by the lord and how many belonging to the men..." And so the list lengthens.

The man of inquiry was always the manor, probably the seat of the modern parish, and there to support the upkeep of the man in armour. At its centre was the sunken track and the line of huts, perhaps a church, and beyond these three immense open fields.

The men who worked these fields brought corn to their lord's mill — they owed him so many days' work — and the majority could not leave the manor without his permission. The lord spent most of the time consuming their produce like an enormous grab.

One family, uniquely, is still where it was at Domesday. Major John Shirley owns Ettington Park near Stratford. His family has owned it in unbroken male descent since a Saxon thane called Saswale. Their estate was assessed at 17 hides in 1086, a hide



To the manor born: Major John Shirley (centre); sons Philip (left) and Huw; and the family chapel, unchanged since 1086

generally taken to be around 100 to 120 acres. It is now rather larger, at 3,000 acres. Although the family still owns the manor, it is more than 80 years since a Shirley lived there.

"I think it's a combination of good luck, good breeding and good management", said Philip Shirley, a London chartered accountant. "We never did anything particularly exciting or distinguished."

The list was completed in a hurry and William was dead before the returns of the eastern circuit could be written up, so London was never included.

It was never popular. The name itself is a nickname, first used in an official document in 1221, but probably used long before. It was thought of as another event which would also allow no appeal, the Day of Dome or Judgement.

Byron Rogers

KNIGHT LIFE

Kenneth Pearson, who has stalked the centuries like Dr Who for his old employers, *The Sunday Times*, conjuring up Pharaohs, Vikings and 18th century soldiery in a series of exhibitions, has staged Domesday 900. In one of the most dramatic locations available, the 13th century Great Hall at Winchester. Inside, the tents of an invading army have been built, with a life-sized Norman knight on horseback peering balefully down from the entrance at those members of the public exercising their right of free access to the medieval Round Table hung on the wall inside.

The exhibition opens tomorrow at the Great Hall Winchester and runs every day until November 1 (10am-6pm, 10-9pm) during June, July and August. Admission: £2, children, OAPs, etc, £1. Family ticket £5.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 909

ACROSS
1 Fledgling (6)
4 Sitting room (6)
7 Narrow road (4)
8 Drivel (8)
9 Unenlightened (8)
12 Male cat (3)
16 Fire-drink gas (6,7)
17 Be remorseful (3)
19 Quarrel fighting (8)
24 Siege (8)
25 Window shelf (4)
26 Prestige (6)
27 Yellowish (6)

DOWN
1 Southe (4)
2 Animal sound (9)
3 Drift (5)
4 Flax fabric (5)
5 Second-hand (4)
6 Relish (5)
10 Egg-shaped (5)
11 Make confused (5)
12 Norse giant (5)
13 Third anniversary (9)

SOLUTION TO NO 908

ACROSS: 1 Hanson 5 Cuts 8 Unity 9 Support 11 Relation 13 Ache 15 Commercialism 17 Loss 18 Spurious 21 Maestri 22 Vista 23 Troy 24 Notate
DOWN: 2 Ariel 3 Say 4 Misconception 5 Cope 6 Branch 7 Curriculum 10 Thermostat 12 Trek 14 Fair 16 Masseir 19 Onset 20 Slay 23 Vet

14 Encounter (4)
15 Blemish (4)
16 German submarine (1,4)
20 Insists upon (5)
21 Sea golf course (5)
22 Solicit (4)
23 Defect (4)

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WEDNESDAY PAGE

Working, and staying mum

Concluding her series on the modern woman, Bel Mooney asks whether a career damages the mother-daughter relationship

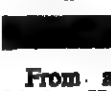
They sat in the common room in Walsingham girls' comprehensive school, Clapham, south London — the mothers of tomorrow: a group of 16-year-olds who, though of mixed race, class and ability, showed remarkable uniformity of opinion. Are women and men equal? Not on one hand up. Should they be? All hands up. How many want a family one day? All but one. How many will want a job as well as motherhood? All.

Amanda Coombes, Lisa Millett, Elaine Mitchell, Afi Ansah, Elaine Brooks, Jocelyn Amponsah, Lucia Spinelli and Marcia Schillars all have working mothers, all believe fathers should help with "mothering" though their own did not. One said: "My mum keeps on at me to go to university because she never had the chance. It's part of being a parent, wanting your kids to do better." Another: "Our mums have been made to think about all that and say: 'Yes, there's more to life than just being a mum.' Another: "Yeah, they've been made to think it by us!"

So will they be different from their mothers? A moment of doubt: "There's a danger of it all slipping back... getting married and having kids and settling for staying at home." It's always one step forward and two steps back.

It would be impossible to imagine a friendlier, more independent group of girls — all born at the end of the Sixties, all but one admitting they did not want to be like their own mothers. Content to be a mother and have daughters the same? No. Think you can be independent-minded and a mother? Of course.

This generation of daughters has a confidence that must be bred of 20 years' pushing by older, older women. They assume that for them there will be choices.



'She does seem to spend a lot of time cleaning the house'

From a different background, Lindsay Hawdon echoes their views. She is 14, and a day girl at Kingswood School, Bath, a co-educational boarding school. Lindsay is determined to become an actress like her mother Sheila, who gave up the theatre when Lindsay was a baby because "at the time I thought you were either a career woman or a wife and mother."

Now 39, Sheila Hawdon works as a marriage guidance counsellor and part-time drama teacher, and looks surprised when her daughter murmurs that Sheila's life seems "dull". "She does seem to spend a lot of time cleaning the house," says Lindsay. "I'd prefer to be in the theatre all the time."

Lindsay's scenario for her own future is clear. She wants to establish herself as an actress before having two children, and then it is "natural" that her husband will help her bring up the children. She would stop work to have the babies, then go back. "The man I'd marry would think men and women are the same. I'd want him to encourage me, and I'd encourage him — otherwise it wouldn't work out."

Whence comes such confidence? The clue comes when Lindsay says

how influenced she is by her mother in judging acting performances. Despite the early decision to give up work, Sheila Hawdon is a woman of great wisdom, who does not live "through" her two daughters. "I'd like to think that whatever Lindsay does, it won't be for me. My own life is so interesting she doesn't have to achieve for me."



'I certainly had things to rebel against; my daughters don't'

But for some mothers, seeing their daughters "get on" is more important than perhaps they admit. If daughters can learn to define themselves through their mothers' denials, mothers can regain what they lost through what their daughters.

There is a hint of that with Mo Holland and her 17-year-old daughter Emma, a sixth former at a tough Cardiff comprehensive. Mo is married to the artist Harry Holland, always longed to study art herself, and is delighted Emma has a place on a Foundation course. "My parents thought I should get a job when I left school, so I ended up a secretary, and married Harry when I was 20. There was a far greater difference between my mother and me than there is between Emma and me. I certainly had things to rebel against, whereas Emma and her older sister don't."

Emma Holland has a relaxed set of assumptions about her future include motherhood and a career, though she imagines the latter more vividly. On the surface that might seem strange, as her "role model" has always been at home. But Mo ascribes to the ideas of greater choice for women that were aired in the Sixties and Seventies, "so I've always tried to make the girls feel that." Emma shrugs: "I can't imagine having to prove I'm equal to any boy I like men... but I don't know any girl who just wants to get married and have children. I think it's how the times are."

Mo says it will be "easier in general" for her daughter's generation: "You think about what you want their future to be. But in the end it must rest with them."



'I never wanted a mother at home because I never had one'

Of course, the ideology of motherhood is always most powerful when there are pressures to reduce the level of female employment, or anxiety about the poor quality of the nation's children. There are signs of that today.

Yet when women are needed in the workforce (at a time of war, for example), national nursery facilities are expanded, and the importance of constant mothering is underplayed. Then guilt is the burden carried by the working mother, and the "bigger" the career the greater the guilt.

If all the young girls who hope one day to have a job and be mothers

could meet Helen and Elizabeth Westwood, they would feel reassured. Helen is bureau chief at the American Broadcasting Corporation's London office, one of only four women to have such a position in the whole of the ABC news division. A miner's daughter from a small Pennsylvania town, she had a mother who was "a nice apple lady who taught her girls how to cook, bake and embroider."

At university Helen majored in physics and was first in her year; she later joined *The New York Times*. Elizabeth was born in 1963, when Helen had "woken up" to the opportunities for women in broadcasting and joined ABC. She never considered not working.

"It didn't bother me," says 22-year-old Elizabeth, and tells of "nice people" who helped look after her, of accompanying her mother to work and meeting adults. "Sure, I would spend summers at my grandmother's and it was nice. But going to work with my mother was exciting. I never wanted a mother at home because I never had one. I always felt my friends' mothers weren't as good as mine, because they stayed at home and she was out there doing something."

Helen was successful academically; Elizabeth gave up her art course, to her mother's disappointment. Helen has achieved a distinguished career; Elizabeth has done some modelling and is now set to launch herself on the pop world with her band Westwood. Helen supports her. "It's hard for an only child. I wanted her to be everything: an ice-skater, a beautiful movie-star-lawyer-doctor all rolled into one." Glamorous but level-headed, Elizabeth sketches out her own future: it involves success and self-sufficiency in the foreground, with children in the background when she is approaching 30.

Helen's husband has an important job in Washington (the new transatlantic marriage); Elizabeth lives with her mother in her airy Kensington flat. They are more like friends than mother and daughter. Elizabeth explains why: "Oh, it's the way she accepted me in everything I wanted to do, and backed me. I am proud of what she has achieved, being a woman. And if I am confident now, look at the model I have! The biggest influence in my life is my mother."



Stage-struck: Sheila and Lindsay Hawdon share one ambition at least.



Dust ambitions: for Emma Holland, as taught by mother Mo



Best friends: Helen Westwood supports daughter Elizabeth in everything she does

Making safety child's play

How parents can help to tackle the terrifying increase in child abuse cases

Last week the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children published figures revealing that the number of British children reporting sexual abuse had doubled in 1985.

It was a similar and equally shocking statistic — that up to 46 per cent of all American children are sexually assaulted in some way by the age of 18 — that spurred teacher and psychologist Sherryl Kerns Krazier to create a training programme for children on personal safety. The programme formed part of an Emmy award winning television documentary, illustrating how vulnerable children are to people they trust.

As author of *The Safe Child*, 36-year-old Mrs Krazier believes there is only one person who can protect a youngster — the child itself. "At the moment of risk, the only things our children can fall back on are their own instincts and the training we have given them."

Sherryl Krazier is one of the leading experts in safety training for children in the United States. The fact that in Britain the majority of cases also involve an adult the child trusts is, she says, all the more reason why youngsters must be taught from an early age that they can say "no" to their teacher, step-parent or neighbour, if something seems wrong.

Just as children are taught to ride a bike, swim and cross the road safely, so they must be taught responsibility for their own body, she says. "Simply as a first step in prevention, you can tell your children that their body belongs to them, that they have a right to say who touches them and how, and that it's okay to say 'No, stop it', and that person should stop."

This approach can begin at two, when a youngster discovers the magic power of the words "yes" and "no". As aunt to her sister's pre-schoolers, Mrs Krazier discovered that even small children know instinctively if excessive tickling, hugs and kisses from a trusted person seems disturbing, and this is the time to encourage them to speak up.

"Abuse is a delicate subject to raise", agrees Mrs Krazier. "But just let your children know you have some new ideas and rules you'd like to discuss. Most children are astonishingly receptive to this simple approach." Rather than a formal, perhaps frightening, conversation between parent and child, Mrs Krazier has created a "What If?" game using the youngster's natural enthusiasm for a new skill as a springboard for spontaneous

discussion. The parent poses simple questions like "What if mummy was in the shower and there was a knock on the door?" to the more worrying "What if a stranger bothered you?" In this relaxed environment, children are encouraged to talk — and their parents or teacher encouraged to listen.

The NSPCC has pointed out that traditionally children have not been listened to — often with disastrous consequences. Now their social workers are trained to believe a child, a policy supported by Mrs Krazier.

Almost without exception children do not lie about sexual abuse, except to deny that it happened, she says. "Children don't normally have access to descriptions of sexual activities, so it's not really possible for them to make up sexual abuse. Children who can talk about this abuse in detail have experienced it."

Sometimes adults — usually the mother — do not wish to hear the truth. Often the abuser is her boyfriend, the child's father or new stepfather. Believing that abuse should be stamped out before it settles into a long-term pattern, Mrs Krazier hopes that teaching the "What If?" game at pre-school stage can prepare a child for dilemmas in later life.

"It is important to talk about what they should do if mum or dad their parents or someone else in the family asks them to do something they know they shouldn't."

Until the publication of the NSPCC's alarming figures last week, parental admonition not to take sweets from a stranger seemed warning enough. Now the problem is much more disturbing. But there are ways of giving a child confidence without turning him or her into a nervous introvert, Mrs Krazier says.

If you have to ask a neighbour to do the school run at short notice, always give her a family code word, so a child knows it is safe to enter her car. Teach your child to stay at least an arm's length from an unknown adult so he or she can keep a discreet eye on the person and remain in control.

Training your own children is one thing but knowing the rules with other people's children is equally important. Mrs Krazier approached a seemingly lost child in a shopping centre. "He did everything right, kept an arm's length away from me and said he was going to the cashier for help. My first reaction was to be hurt. After all, I knew I was an OK person. Then I realized he was doing precisely what I teach in schools."

Even the experts are learning.

Suzanne Greaves

The Safe Child by Sherryl Kerns Krazier (Futura, £1.95) is published on April 3.

Teachers don't have to be taut

About 40 teachers, mostly from London, did something unusual earlier this month: they did not discuss the dispute, talk about pay or the minutiae of supervision rotas. They sat in a hall, shut their eyes and tried to imagine the ideal school.

It was an exercise that initially met with scepticism. It had been preceded by a 10-minute moaning session that had produced the familiar catalogue of educational woes: drunk colleagues, lack of facilities, widespread stealing and no communication with fellow teachers. They were fired up with the awful impossibility of it all.

But a calm spread. The tense faces relaxed as they were asked to imagine waking up in the morning full of enthusiasm because they were going to their ideal school. "Stand outside the gates for a moment. Watch the faces of the children. Notice how they look going to an ideal school. Now go inside."

The speaker was Guy Claxton, director of teacher training at Kings College, London, who for the past year has been running Education Network workshops for teachers who are demoralized and depressed by their working conditions and want to rediscover the idealism that made them take up the profession. Education Network began about three years ago when half a dozen like-minded teachers discussing meeting regularly to discuss their calling. The Network ran its first



workshop last year, at £15 a head, and it also produces a small magazine. Slim and bearded, with a light and easy manner, Claxton began by talking about his Amstrad. "I've just got one of those computers and all my metaphors are computing at the moment. Today is a chance to see if the programs we are running are the ones that are the most fulfilling and productive." A few weeks earlier I had attended a support group run by Claxton for those who had done the workshop and found it helpful to have somewhere to go to talk about their hopes and secret terrors. As one of the teachers said: "The whole school system is an emotional no-go area. We don't teach the children to value and express their emotions. What I got out of coming here is that I find others are experiencing the same feelings as me and I'm not going crazy."

"Emotions aren't the point," one woman retorted. "It's about actions. This place enables me to make commitments to myself to do something. If I don't do something afterwards then it has been a waste of time." One of the most moving moments of the morning had come when this woman started

find it to talk to senior teachers. The other was the widespread feeling of not being appreciated.

The one piece of personal philosophy apparently shared by everyone in the support group was the idea that people are responsible to some degree for their problems.

"Whenever we feel threatened or rejected or worried about looking foolish", Claxton said at one point, "we stop living according to our lights. Our defensive mechanisms start working and we forget our vision." Then came the clincher. "Stress is the unwanted by-product of the reaction to demanding circumstances ineptly handled."

At once there was a roar from the side of the hall. "I'm angry", declared a tall, bearded man. "I'm not ready for all this enlightenment stuff. I'm a secondary teacher in south-east London with mixed-ability, multi-racial classes. When I have a difficult class it's not because I'm inept." But as he talked his anger faded and he went on to talk about the need for greater professionalism.

Claxton explained how teachers can avoid what he called "gumption traps", those moments when energy and idealism seem to drain away. The first requirement for handling them, he said, was to recognize them — and to do that there was another exercise.

The workshop paired off, one person playing the idealist, putting forward proposals based on his or her vision of the ideal school, the other playing the cynic, pouring cold water on everything. "Notice the point at which you idealists start to lose heart", Claxton instructed. "Being aware of the change is the first step towards preventing it."

Jerome Burne

The Education Network, 13 Clovelly Road, London W3

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THE TIMES DIARY

Tripoli alliance

While the bombs are dropping thick and fast in Libya, two Greenham Common women are being fitted by Colonel Gaddafi in Tripoli. According to the Workers Revolutionary Party paper *Newsline*, they are attending a symposium entitled the Second World Mathaba (forum), hosted by the Libyan leader, at which Louis Farrakhan, the American leader of the Nation of Islam, is also present. The meeting of pro-Libyan factions is to berate the evils of fascism, racism, imperialism and Zionism. Can the peace ladies of Greenham know that Farrakhan, darling of black separatists in the US, recently said: "Hitler was a very great man. He rose Germany up from the ashes." Farrakhan, subsidized by an \$8.5 million loan from Gaddafi, was recently denied entry into Britain by the Home Secretary after being invited by Hackney Black People's Association.

Rolling stump

Lightest moment in the dark days for English cricket at the third Test in Barbados came with the loudspeaker announcement: "Will Mr Mick Jagger please report to the players' entrance at the pavilion." Jagger had indeed turned up to play, but not on the field. He etched England's falling star Ian Botham and whisked him off to a nightclub.

Ad-Libbing

You could tell that Liberal QC Louis Blom-Cooper was treading on thin ice when he told Alliance lawyers this week that it was time to take a national look at abolishing jury trials in complex fraud trials, setting up a national police force and allowing the Crown the right of appeal over sentencing. The normally word perfect Blom-Cooper, who has wooed many a juror with his rhetoric as well as his reason, twice stuttered and stammered when he found his papers out of order.

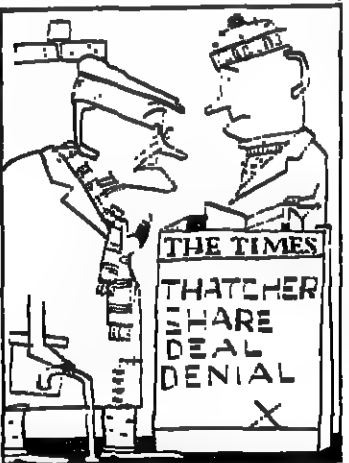
Fair shares

Lord Whitelaw certainly knew what to do with his shares on reaching Cabinet rank. He has admitted placing them in a trust for safekeeping. As a result he reckons he has done a great deal better than if he had been conducting his own affairs.

Head start

Blackpool could be more than usually busy this year, thanks to well publicized misinformation from the TUC. Its annual directory, apart from failing to give any TUC telephone numbers, has the AUEW conference earmarked for Blackpool when in fact it will be held in Eastbourne. Many industrial hacks who enjoy Blackpool's bracing northern air have already booked into the Imperial Hotel, the scene of much conference carousing in the past.

BARRY FANTONI



"You can't blame her. It's no fun living on a state pension"

Musical break

Despite the presence of the Prince and Princess of Wales, the planned non-stop performance at the Royal Festival Hall tonight of three sections from the opera *Le Nozze di Figaro* will in fact have a 20-minute interval. Conductor Seiji Ozawa apparently feels that one hour and 45 minutes of unrelieved Messiah is too much for anyone, especially himself, and demanded a break. As a yoga enthusiast, he will no doubt spend it in a spot of meditative relaxation. It's not only the royals who could find themselves confused; listeners to Radio 3 will suddenly find Messiah interrupted by *Six Continents*, which originally should have followed.

Out of place

The only mystery about the appointment of Bill Bush, Ken Livingstone's political aide, to head the ILEA's external relations department is how the man it passed over — Michael Ward, information chief — ever got a job with the authority at all. Ward, who complains of an increasing politicization of senior posts, is, after all, SDP parliamentary candidate for Tonbridge. During his original job interview in 1984 a Labour member is said to have passed a note to another asking if the ILEA chairman, Frances Morrell, knew that Ward, a former Labour MP, had joined the SDP three years earlier. "No, and don't tell her," was the reply of the other member, impressed by Ward's qualifications. "I'm sure the story's apocryphal," says Ward.

PHS

Reagan's misjudged reprisal

Robert Fisk considers the likely outcome of the Sixth Fleet strike against Libya

The Americans have had Colonel Gaddafi in their gun sights for a long time. Almost three years ago, aboard a missile destroyer off Beirut, a senior US naval officer told me: "We may not know who our enemies are here, but we will get Gaddafi." His ship had just sailed from the Gulf of Sirte, where American jets had chased two Libyan MiG-23 fighters away from the aircraft carrier Eisenhower. Several off-duty seamen wore T-shirts announcing their intention to "zap" Gaddafi. And this week, zapped he was.

That, at least, seems to be the American assumption as its planes leave Libyan patrol boats smouldering in the disputed waters of the gulf, the missile bases ashore smashed by US air force rockets. One after another, the diplomatic rituals had been broken as the Libyan colonel and the American president mutually accused each other on prime time US television of terrorism, imperialism and blackmail. Arab leaders who would have liked nothing more than the overthrow of the Libyan leader listened appalled as Reagan's rhetoric forced them to offer Gaddafi their support.

Just how stunned the Russians are by the whole affair is likely to emerge in the next few days. For Gaddafi is at the same time their most avaricious arms buyer in the Middle East and their most unreliable ally. Sixteen months ago the Libyans negotiated an enormous weapons deal with Moscow,

promising to pay \$1,000 million over three years for advanced ground-to-ground and anti-aircraft missile systems. Some oil bartering was involved but Moscow insisted on undercutting the flat rate per barrel. In October last year Gaddafi himself went to Moscow to ask for new aircraft.

Mikhail Gorbachev was reportedly shocked, not so much by Gaddafi's changeable, moody personality but by his arrogance. He has the habit of telling Moscow how to handle the Americans. The Libyans were not given the treatment normally accorded to Arab delegations and the Russians, even in their published condemnation of the US air strikes, distanced themselves from full political support for a country whose leader appears so untrustworthy.

Nevertheless, Moscow cannot shrug off the huge military investment which it has placed in Libya. The loss of a few missile batteries and three or four patrol boats in a naval scuffle is negligible. But if the Americans choose to attack the large Libyan air bases outside Tripoli, Benghazi and Tobruk, millions of dollars worth of hardware would be destroyed. The Libyans possess, for example, a squadron of TU-22 bombers (the

"Blinder" in Nato terminology), 143 MiG-23s, 50 MiG-25s, 55 MiG-21s and 30 Hind-24 helicopter gunships, which the Soviet air force has used with devastating effect in Afghanistan.

Many of these machines are believed to be in storage — though no doubt available to the Russians themselves in the event of an international conflict — but this makes them no less vulnerable. A serious American military operation against Libya itself — a marine landing or a series of air strikes throughout the country — just might provoke internal unrest, perhaps a military coup by army officers smarting at the way Gaddafi's own revolutionary career has been put in command of barracks and ammunition stores.

America's critics in the Middle East suspect that Reagan might be thinking along those lines. The loss of Libya would cause almost as much damage to Soviet prestige as the overthrow of the Shah did to the Carter administration.

Indeed, it does stretch the imagination to go on regarding the Sixth Fleet perambulations in the Gulf of Sirte — three aircraft carriers and 22 other major warships, as nothing more than a "routine" manoeuvre which had been unhappily interrupted by Gaddafi's

missile crews. Libyan involvement in the killings at Rome and Vienna airports in December was not so clearly traced as other bloody Gaddafi adventures and his involvement in the elimination of his Libyan opponents abroad. But the message that Gaddafi must be "taught a lesson" has been around for some time.

Unfortunately, the political results of military action in the Middle East rarely turn out to be as satisfactory as their initiators intend. While Gaddafi may well regret that missiles were fired at the Americans from the desert, the Americans are unlikely to reap many advantages from what has happened or from anything worse that follows. The Lebanese debacle, it seems, is easily forgotten.

Gaddafi's standing in the Arab world has again been augmented: he is not the only Arab leader to have been in conflict with the "American imperialists". Even moderate Arab statesmen are in no position to remain silent when a superpower is involved in military action against a small Arab state. The Russians will quickly see advantage in this. For at the very moment when the Middle East settlement should be more earnestly pursued than ever before the US is directing its attention at a petty tyrant who can survive only on the sort of publicity that Reagan is now generously affording him.

Richard Dowden on the plight of Yugoslavia's oppressed Serbs

Ulster of the Balkans



Tito: appeasement



Hoxha: emotive slogan



Yugoslav painter has since housed them in his Belgrade home and the equivalent of £2,150 was collected for the family. The meeting was given only a mild rebuke by the local authorities.

Sixty thousand Serbs in Kosovo, meanwhile, have signed a petition demanding action and warning: "We can no longer tolerate the genocide carried out against us and our families. Unless the authorities take matters in hand and ensure our constitutional rights, we shall take matters into our own hands."

To the Serbs, predominantly Orthodox Christians, Kosovo has a symbolic sacredness not unlike that of Londonderry to Ulster Protestants. It was the birthplace of the Serbian nation and the inscription on the monument at the battlefield of Kosovo where the Serbs were defeated by the Turks in 1389 damns all Serbs who will not fight for their fatherland.

Not unlike Ulster's Catholics,

the Muslim Albanians were always the underdogs in Kosovo. Towards the end of the 1960s President Tito tried to deal with the problem by Albanianizing the province, although he did not go so far as to grant it the status of a republic and it remains an autonomous province of Serbia. This relieved the immediate pressure but has created an educated Albanian youth, leading to a resurgence of Albanian nationalism, particularly in schools and at the university in Pristina, the capital.

At the same time the birthrate among Albanians, 2.9, is the highest in Europe and families of seven or eight are common. Pressure on land is enormous. Unemployment is officially a third but is thought to be more like a half. Seventy per cent of the 2.5 million population are under 25 years old.

The fury of the young Albanians finally burst out in rioting in 1981 throughout the province. The

official death toll was nine, but journalists working there at the time, whose reporting was strictly censored, put the figure much higher, with at least six policemen killed. Since then the nationalists have gone underground, armed themselves and disseminated literature. According to the Kosovo Ministry of the Interior, 96 underground organizations have been uncovered since 1981, 1,200 Albanians sentenced for subversive activities and a further 3,000 for lesser offences. A group of 120 were arrested last week, including two engineers, teachers and a number of students.

The literature seized with these Marxist-Leninist terminology and called for the unity of all Albanian people, proclaiming "Long live Enver Hoxha", the former president of Albania. Local party officials hint at financial support from Albania itself. Many of the Albanian nationalists want Pristina to be the capital of a Greater Albania, which would include Kosovo and much of Macedonia, which also has a large Albanian population.

The party makes encouraging noises about stopping irredentist propaganda in schools and the like, but the party line does not seem convincing in the bleak, gritty streets of Pristina, filled with poor Albanian peasants, the men in distinctive white woolen caps, the women in shawls and wide skirts. It is a drab new city of offices and flats at the end of a windy and waterlogged plateau. It is rare to hear anything but Albanian spoken.

There are strong suspicions that the local Albanian party chiefs are less than fully committed to Yugoslav unity and while preaching fraternalism between Yugoslav nations turn a blind eye to their compatriots' excesses against the Serbs. Serbs in Belgrade, even party men, argue that their Kosovo comrades act only to protect the Serbian minority when pressed by Belgrade.

But Serbia, which dominated its neighbours when its kingdom embraced them, has not many friends among the other republics. All except Macedonia have their ancient reasons for being quietly pleased at the Albanian resurgence against Serbia. This increases Serbian isolation and fervour and builds up the pressure.

Asked what he thought the outcome would be, a neutral observer living in Pristina said: "I think Kosovo will soon be ethnically pure. Then, if Yugoslavia is to be kept together, they will have to send in the army."

Why Hume will not be joining Home

Conservative MP Richard Holt has presented the Commons with a bill under the Ten Minute Rule designed to bring leading non-Anglican religious leaders into the House of Lords alongside the Church of England bishops. Given that Anglicanism now seems merely one church among many, albeit one established by the law, a certain logic is on his side. The Pope, however, is not. And it is on that rock that Holt's proposal will founder.

Putting an ecumenical bench in the Lords is an old chestnut of an idea. It is surely only right, the argument goes, that the state should have the advice of the best and wisest minds in the kingdom, and even the Church of England has long since stopped believing that it has a monopoly there.

If the Archbishop of Canterbury sits in the Lords, then why not the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, the Moderator of the Free Churches, the Chief Rabbi, and even some of their lesser ranks? More than a decade ago, it seems, the late Cardinal Heenan's name was being toyed with in Downing Street patronage circles. More recently, Cardinal Hume's name has been mentioned.

mirable recruit to the ranks of cross-bench life peers. It is hard to believe that the Prime Minister's office has not noticed that already, and Sir Immanuel's recent excursion into the field of inner-city policy, saying things much more agreeable to Tory ears than the Church of England has done, has not weakened his case.

But the problems start not with Judaism but with the non-Anglican varieties of Christianity. The Free Churches are constitutionally and by ethos strongly opposed to what they call "prelacy", to the extent that they insist on the annual replacement of their chief officers, their presidents and moderators, lest any of them should get too big for the moderatorial boots.

This is an annual self-inflicted wound, particularly when those same churches also regularly complain that their leaders receive minimal attention from the Press and public. No Free Church leader ever stays long enough for the public to catch up with who he is.

Such churches are nonconformist by choice; and they do not want a publicly visible hierarchy, personally famous. And they have Lord Soper, the exception which proves the rule. There are several other distinguished and senior

nonconformist ministers like him, or former moderators of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, who would countenance an invitation to join their Lordships despite their own church's distaste for prelacy.

The Roman Catholic Church has numerically a very strong case. Churchgoers for churchgoers, it matches the Church of England, and in the United Kingdom as a whole it is the largest denomination in terms of regular church attendance. But it is official policy under Pope John Paul II that churchmen should leave politics to the politicians — paradoxical though this may appear considering his own political impact in Poland and recent church-state events in the Philippines. But three priests have been suspended for remaining in the government of Nicaragua and Catholic clergy-men elsewhere have been obliged to drop political careers.

Against that background, there is no chance of British Catholic prelates accepting nomination to the House of Lords. And without that ingredient, Holt's proposals to change its ecclesiastical face is doomed.

Nevertheless, in the present ecumenical climate, there is no Catholic desire to be seen to be

criticizing the Anglican episcopal bench in the Lords. The presence of their bishops is the result of the unique constitutional position of the Church of England in the British constitution. Parliament still has a veto on internal Church of England legislation; the *quid pro quo* is the church's guaranteed place in Parliament.

Behind the issue is the unresolved place of the House of Lords in national life. Successive governments have been tempted to abolish it, or reform it by making it truly representative of a certain mature strand in the nation, a council of elders of every kind of background or experience.

It is in this slightly idealistic role of a council of elders that most Anglican bishops are happy to play a part, able to speak on general moral issues as well as those in which the Church of England has a more particular stake such as church legislation.

Most of them would not object if they were joined by ecumenical reinforcements. But at least for the moment those reinforcements are refusing to be enlisted, and the Anglican bench will have to soldier on alone.

Clifford Longley
Religious affairs correspondent

David Selbourne

No muzzling Militant

Today's hearing by Labour's national executive committee on the activities of the Liverpool wing of the Revolutionary Socialist League (alias the Militant Tendency) is merely another episode in an elaborate masquerade.

For the importance of what is going on is not to be found in the artifice of barrack-room charge and counter-charge as to Militant "subversion" and intimidation, Labour Party "witch-hunts" and other procedural mayhem. The real issues are different, and fundamental. Most obvious is the sound of brooms and hoses in the sound of brooms as Labour starts preparing for the general election. The old cart-horse, now saddled with Neil Kinnock, is having its electoral mane brushed and its tail plaited. "Seeing off the Trots", to use the vernacular of the inner-party grooms and stable lads, is therefore high on the party's priorities. The voters scare easily, according to conventional Labour wisdom, and need reassurance.

But, more important, Militant's local strength in Liverpool is a product of Labour's long-standing internal policy confusions and (whatever the opinion polls may say) lost sense of direction. The present quasi-judicial theatricals — in which one kind of Tammany, that of Watworth Road, is presuming to judge another — serve temporarily to divert and suppress party consciousness of this. The truth is that Liverpool Militant is irreducible, its short-tailed, snappily dressed Trotskyite entries beyond Labour's powers of removal. Moreover, Militant is not just a reflection of Scouse Labourism in general; it incorporates a Liverpool tradition of bare-knuckled ardour in defence of the city.

And the city needs it: Liverpool has 25 per cent unemployment — 80 per cent in the Vauxhall ward — 56,000 households on supplementary benefit, and 50,000 domestic ratepayers poor enough to receive rebates. If Derek Hatton and company had not existed, someone would have had to invent them.

Indeed, the problem for the Labour Party is that the hard-punching, impetuous "Trotskyism" which has been brought to this task of civic defence has called the bluff of Labour's own conference decisions: they too demanded the defence of "jobs and services" from Whitehall depredations — the very policy the Liverpool council has so fiercely pursued. In Liverpool itself, across the entire spectrum of the party's supporters, the Militant's Scouse chauvinism still commands substantial favour; any dislike of Hatton's methods is matched by resentment at metropolitan "interference" in Liverpool's business. The Labour NEC, the High Court and "the media" are con-

lated by the average Scouser into one foreign body.

Throughout the Labour movement it is open season for every Tom, Dick and Harry to assert the necessity of his tactic, his strategy and his "vision" for the socialist future. Within Liverpool itself, although Militant has carried the red banner, there is a plethora of "positions", ranging from Philistine workmanist to arm-twisting centrists in search of the middle ground, to (mainly Catholic) right-wingers now walking the tightrope that stretches from earth to heaven, or Kinnock to Owen.

There is, in other words, no Labour consensus in Liverpool, nor one to be discovered in London, even if the Labour manifesto will in the end give a passing imitation of it. Filling the ideological vacuum with hot air, whether Kinnock's or Hatton's, is one course; "purging" the party — while simultaneously creating a leadership fund for the purges — is another. Above all, Labour's actions in the Liverpool matter have been dictated much less by principle than by the sense that its national prospects will be even more damaged by inaction than by tugging with Hatton and his fellow tribesmen. It is wrong about this; Militant has the capacity not merely to give its (name) purposes a good run for their money but to outlast Kinnock himself in the struggle for political survival.

Indeed Kinnock, leading the inquiry from behind — though conceding the fact — has allowed himself to be simultaneously egged on and browbeaten by yet another Tammany Labour faction in Liverpool: the crusading anti-Militants, many of them in the Vauxhall ward party, for whom Trotskyism is the work of the devil. But the net consequence of the imbroglio has been to exacerbate party divisions, duck the main issues of Liverpool's appalling economic privations and hand the city council to the Liberals.

And what is certain is that Militant will not be dislodged from the city — investigations, surcharges, expulsions and disqualifications notwithstanding. With a soviet kebab bottle in one hand and a volume of Trotsky in the other (it is the first that makes Militant red in tooth and claw, not the second) it will go marching on; across a political and economic landscape ransacked by unemployment and devastated by intransigent central government misrule and revenue losses.

Labour's NEC — no stranger itself to Militant's methods — can go on trying to do its worst, but the Revolutionary Socialist League, one way or another, will survive the huffing and puffing of its critics.

David Selbourne is the author of *Against Socialist Illusion: A Radical Argument* (Macmillan).

moreover... Miles Kington

Perils of a real Pauline

Among all the long tributes to the late Ray Milland I saw no reference to his very early film, *The Flying Scotsman*, made so early that it was a silent film when it started production and a talkie by the time it finished. Halfway through, the actors suddenly burst into speech. I felt slightly cheated by this omission, because *The Flying Scotsman* is the only Ray Milland film I have ever seen.

My access to this forgotten treasure came about because last year I was involved in making half a dozen programmes for the BBC about steam railways (no transmission date yet), one on *The Flying Scotsman*. Neil, our producer, had the bright idea of getting all the film footage he could find on the subject and showing it in a viewing cinema to a rail historian, John Huntley, and a man who had actually been a fireman on the engine, Frank Mays, then film their reaction in the front row of the stalls.

The Ray Milland film was undoubtedly the star of the collection, because it featured a climactic last reel in which the driver gets into a fight with the fireman, the villain climbs over the tender and attacks the driver, the driver's daughter climbs along the outside of the train to rescue her daddy — all while the train is careering along at about 30 mph. What seems incredible now is that none of this was done in the studio; it was all done for real, and all the actors did their own stunt work.

The LNER let the film company have a Hertfordshire loop line all to themselves for four consecutive weekends. John Huntley told us, "and the *Flying Scotsman* engine as well. The company rigged up a sort of camera platform outside the engine so that the cameramen could shoot down the outside of the train, but unfortunately the very first tunnel they went into hit the camera and swept it off the train. They had measured the clearance between the engine and the tunnel all right; what they hadn't bargained for was the fact that engines sway from side to side in motion."

At one point Ray Milland, stunned by a blow from the driver, hangs outside the engine as if about to fall off, though we never see him satisfactorily climb back into the cab again. This, explained Huntley, was because in one take Milland, dangling in the open air,

opened his eyes to see a station platform rushing towards him which would undoubtedly have removed his head had he not taken immediate action. Shaken, he refused to do any more dangling scenes, and who can blame him?

Frank Mays, who had often been on the footplate of the real engine, had never seen this film before and was quite shaken by the risks they had taken, especially by the heroine Pauline Johnson as she came along the outside of the train in tight 1920s clothes and high-heeled shoes, and then crossed the gap on to the engine. With all his experience, he said, he would never have attempted the same thing himself.

A much easier way of getting to the footplate would have been to walk up inside the train, then go through the corridor inside the tender. This had been built for the non-stop London-Edinburgh run so that a fresh engine crew could replace the old one without the train having to come to a stop. One advantage of this, said Frank, was that if you were just coming off duty you could go to the bar in your overalls, be introduced to the customers by the barman as the men who had just been driving from London and be guaranteed admiring rounds of drinks.

John Huntley said it was Ray Milland's first film. The story was that Milland, a coalman from South Wales, had a job with the film company as stagehand while they were casting for *The Flying Scotsman* film. For the part of the fireman they needed someone who could handle coal authentically; Milland was the only person on the payroll who had experience of coal, so suddenly he found himself catapulted into a starring role in the film. His acting was spotted by Hollywood and fairly soon he was spirited away from the British film scene for ever.

Unfortunately, the recent tributes had quite another story. Milland's father was in coal; it was true, but as a coal-owner, Ray was a well-off young man who had spent a year in the Household Cavalry, and who was spotted at a trendy London party by a producer who thought he had the look of a film star. This may be true, but it is also boring. I much prefer the story that John Huntley heard and that is the one I shall go on telling.



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

THE BATTLE OF SIRTE

US ships were present in the Gulf of Sirte on Monday despite warnings from the Libyan regime of Colonel Gaddafi that it had been declared Libyan territorial waters. To cross the "line of death" into it, the Libyans had threatened, would invite justified military retaliation.

Is there, in fact, any validity in the Libyan territorial claim to the Gulf of Sirte under international law? Plainly not. Gulf waters can be absorbed into a nation's territory only when they are 24 miles across or less. The Gulf of Sirte is 275 miles in extent. Not surprisingly, therefore, the Libyan claim has little support. Only Burkina Faso endorses it, and both Moscow and radical Arab states friendly to Colonel Gaddafi are opposed to it.

That being so, the U.S. Sixth Fleet was defending the right of passage through international waters by being present in the Gulf. The initial Libyan attack was therefore aggressive and the American response legally justified.

That much was conceded in yesterday's Commons exchanges by Mr Neil Kinnock. What he and other critics of the American action maintain, however, is that the initial U.S. presence in the Gulf was an unnecessary provocation and that its subsequent use of retaliatory force was excessive.

The concept of provocation, however, is a slippery one. Colonel Gaddafi's claim to the Gulf and his threats to enforce it, on the face of it, even more provocative than the American defiance. But they are not seen in that light, perhaps because the Libyan leader is thought to be so irrational that it is useless to judge his actions by the usual criteria of international relations.

Similarly, even if the U.S. action is criticised as needless provocation, it was always open to the Libyans not to

respond to it. That is, after all, the reaction being urged by Mr Kinnock upon the Americans. In short, the argument of provocation is used to exculpate the Libyans for making an unlawful claim upon international waters and for employing aggression to enforce it; also to condemn the U.S. for defending its maritime rights under international law. It is difficult to regard it as a serious argument.

Whether the U.S. response was disproportionate is a matter of judgment on two levels. There is a perfectly straightforward military argument for taking no chances when dealing with an unpredictable regime which has equipped itself with advanced missile systems. Even a weak opponent can do great damage if unrestrained by normal prudence. And it would be a disaster, both internationally and domestically, for the Reagan administration if it suffered the loss of a naval vessel at Libyan hands.

But it is the political argument for a strong response that raises the more interesting questions. The Libyan regime has demonstrated an utter contempt for international norms of behaviour in numerous ways. It has invaded neighboring countries, sought to subvert others, sponsored assassinations of Libyan exiles abroad and given support, training and sanctuary to terrorist groups which have then hijacked American civil airliners and mounted attacks in West European airports.

Yet the Reagan administration has found itself, in the psychological language now employed in international affairs, "frustrated" in its response to this lawlessness. Western European countries have refused to join in American sanctions against Libya, thus undermining what was an already weak reprisal. And the opinions of both allies and

critics at home have persuaded the Reagan administration to forswear the policy of responding to terrorist attacks by "indiscriminate" attacks on the territory of states which sponsor them, of which Libya is the prime example.

Thus the U.S. required some good cause before it was able to retaliate for the above list of Libyan outrages. And, by attacking the Sixth Fleet, Colonel Gaddafi supplied it. The U.S. response was therefore not disproportionate in relation to this background of Libyan aggression.

The final question is: but was it wise? That is, was it likely to advance U.S. interests?

The common reply is to claim that attacks will merely serve to strengthen Colonel Gaddafi's position both with other Arab countries and with his own countrymen. In terms of immediate rhetoric, that is almost certainly correct. There will be much rallying round the Libyan leader in the next few days.

But will that be so in the longer term? The more cautious Arab leaders may make the prudent calculation that if extreme provocation of the U.S. leads to such results, then it should perhaps be avoided. Even Colonel Gaddafi apparently took this view when the U.S. last seemed likely to take military action against him earlier this year.

Nor should it be forgotten that the greatest internal threat to his rule comes from the armed forces — forces which his recklessness has yet again exposed to defeat, loss of life and pointless humiliation. Military leaders who suffer defeat in the pursuit of reckless adventures often find that they have lost the prestige that enabled them to maintain themselves in power at home. If Colonel Gaddafi doubts this, he might consult former President Galtieri.

MAYOR DALEY WOULD APPROVE

So much for the brave new world of municipal socialism. What has been on display at County Hall in the last days of the Greater London Council is good old-fashioned patronage on a scale that would have done credit to Mayor Daley of Chicago.

Political service has not lacked for rewards. Staff appointed by the Labour GLC on short term contracts as advisers and heads of the ubiquitous units have moved — so easily — into permanent positions in the Inner London (Interim) Education Authority, with voluntary bodies (funded by compulsory levy), and with the Labour-controlled boroughs.

As far as anyone knows, which given the public's breadth of ignorance about activities within County Hall is not far, nothing contrary to law has happened in the recent rash of appointments. It is up to Mrs Frances Morrell to choose her own personal assistant, and sadly it will make little difference to the condition of London schools that her chosen aide is until the weekend the personal assistant to Mr Ken Livingstone.

Westminster City Council has attempted in the courts to thwart the GLC's efforts to leave a handsome financial legacy to favourite beneficiaries. But the destination of the GLC's employees has not been challenged.

After the amounts of money

that have been spent over the past few years on dubious public purposes this rush of last-minute appointments may, indeed, seem scarcely worth a second glance. And yet they are. For Mr Livingstone has come to take on a heroic, even a martyred air as the Government, for no good reason, proceeded with the abolition exercise. His claim to speak for Londoners against an authoritarian central government has gained credence.

The recent jobs and grants bonanza puts the Labour administration in a different light. For it shows that Labour also stands for publicly financed incomes for a new elite cadre of political hangers on and fixers: these too have been a facet of the GLC story.

Municipal patronage, it should be said, has had less and less scope the further one looks into useful functions. The disposal of London's waste; protection of the capital against fire; these services are untainted. But in "public relations" and administration and the new class of "advisory" jobs the qualifications are much vaguer. Mrs Morrell can say, for example, of the ILEA's new head of external relations that his political service at the GLC is a qualification: but that only reflects the growing incoherence about the purposes of many municipal jobs.

A common reflex in the 1980s, when confronted by these latter day tales of municipal misbehaviour is to send for the civil servants, making the implicit judgement that somehow central politics are more sanitary and central officials more trustworthy than local. The judgement is moot. It was, after all, the Department of the Environment which made grandiose claims for the savings from abolition and which has since kept mightily silent as its creature commences, aided and abetted by its rate support apportionments, have kept the spending show on the road.

In an ideal world, the managers of the ILEA would soon be called to book. Elections are to be held in May for the new authority. Labour's administration of London's schools, its preoccupation with sex and race initiatives over against the core quality of schooling and their relationship with employment will, in principle, be up for voters' judgement. It will be said, very sadly, if London parents, London citizens do not go out to register their hopes for public education. For the local ballot box alone (within a reformed system of local finance) is the way to regulate this public service.

Where better than on the hustings to explain and justify jobs for the boys?

Benzodiazepines

From Mr D.R. Blagden
Sir, I was astonished to read of Professor Ian Oswald's suggestion that benzodiazepine tranquillisers should be made available over the counter without a doctor's prescription (report, March 17).

Numerous studies, in the UK and elsewhere, have shown conclusively that the benzodiazepines, far from being "safe", as Professor Oswald claims, are a highly addictive range of drugs which should only be prescribed with the utmost caution.

The comparison with alcohol and cigarettes is pernicious and misleading. The risks associated with use of these recreational drugs are universally known. In contrast, many patients who are prescribed "minor" tranquillisers by their doctors are never warned at the time that these drugs are addictive and indeed many only realise that they have become drug-dependent when they try to reduce or discontinue the dosage they are taking.

Moreover, unlike alcoholism and nicotine addiction, which are usually associated with abnormally high levels of intake, pharmacological dependency on

benzodiazepines can occur even at normal therapeutic dosages and following short courses of treatment.

Fortunately, a minority of enlightened GPs is now much more cautious about prescribing benzodiazepines unless there are strong clinical grounds for doing so. The suggestion that these drugs be made available without prescription is highly irresponsible.

Yours faithfully,
DEAN RAYMOND BLAGDEN,
2 Denning Road,
Hampstead, NW3,
March 18.

Lost for words

From Ms B. Gillian Donnell
Sir, One sympathises with the concern expressed by Professor E. H. Brown and others (February 25) concerning school leavers' inadequacy in precise use of the English language. They should know of the existence of the National Congress on Languages in Education, a body consisting of 37 language associations embracing all language areas and all sectors of education.

Four years ago it set up a working party to work with teachers in schools in precisely this

area. The intention is that pupils should learn what language is and how it functions in order to be able to convey meaning effectively.

A network of schools around the country which are taking initiatives of this kind has been established and the working party is at present producing a programme for the training of teachers to teach effectively in this area and is producing an evaluation programme for use by schools.

Yours faithfully,
GILLIAN DONNELL,
King's College London (KQC),
Wincle,
Macclesfield,
Cheshire,
March 15.

From Professor N. Kuri, FRS
Sir, About 30 years ago the sub-faculty of engineering of the University of Oxford recommended that the finals examiners, in assessing the essay paper, should take into account grammar, style and presentation. This proposal was turned down by the Faculty Board of Physical Sciences as being unfair to the candidates! Yours faithfully,
N. KURI,
University of Oxford,
Department of Engineering Science,
Parks Road,
Oxford,
March 18.

Letters to the Editor

Anonymity of rape victims

From Dr B. S. Markesinis
Sir, The continuing reluctance of the police to publish photographs of suspect rapists may or may not be justified, given the wording of section 6(1) of the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act, 1976. But by attracting public attention to this long and in many respects unfortunate enactment, these incidents may help alert Parliament to yet another of its defective provisions.

This is section 4(1) which, while purporting to protect the anonymity of rape victims, actually achieves this laudable aim in a patchy and deficient manner. For in the first place the sanction provided in the event of a breach of this provision — a maximum fine of £500 — is unlikely to deter the unscrupulous publisher. Secondly, only victims of "rape offences", as defined in section 7(2), are protected by the statute. Equally meritorious victims of other sexual offences, for example indecent assault, incest or buggery are thus excluded from the protective ambit of the Act (and may not always be covered by other enactments).

English law has been known to put up with a certain amount of illogicality and inconsistency. But to make privacy for the victim depend on what penetrates whom with what and where appears quite absurd. And even the victims of rape are inadequately protected if the prosecution drops the rape charge for a guilty plea to a different, lesser, sexual offence. In such cases a conviction can be obtained at the high price of losing one's right to anonymity.

Despite an increasing number of important judicial pronouncements concerning aspects of human privacy, Parliament (and many academics) have taken a hostile view towards recognising a wider right of privacy such as exists in other systems. One of the arguments often put forward for this stance is the difficulty of defining privacy and of balancing the competing interests of anonymity and freedom of speech.

But in the present type of situation the difficulties of definition, which have been a cause or an excuse for parliamentary inactivity, disappear since we are dealing with a narrow and clearly defined issue. Would it therefore be too much to hope that the legislators will turn their attention to this deficiency of the 1976 Act when drafting the Criminal Justice Bill?

After all, how many times must one make the point that not everything that interests the public should be published in the public interest?

Yours truly,
BASIL S. MARKESINIS,
Trinity College,
Cambridge,
March 25.

Skirting the issue

From Mrs Sarah Thursfield
Sir, As a dressmaker, much of my business is initiated by telephone, and I have observed that where a woman of mature years will start briskly, "Hello dear, could you let out a skirt for me?", her daughter takes a deep breath and says, "With reference to your advert in the *Sutton Coldfield Observer*, I am calling to enquire about the possibility of having some bridesmaids' dresses made."

Is this becoming a widespread practice, or is it simply that dressmakers are now such a rare breed that younger women are unsure how to approach them? Yours sincerely,
SARAH THURSFIELD,
68 Lindridge Road,
Sutton Coldfield,
West Midlands,
March 19.

Finding a fake

From Mr Brian R. Battersby
Sir, It was not only Victorian restorers who altered paintings in order to conceal embarrassing detail (Mr Dachinger's letter, March 11). Joseph Penington records the artist Westall's addition of "thin drapery" to part of a figure of Apollo, before its inclusion in the Royal Academy's summer exhibition of 1806. The artist cleverly used water-colour for the added drapery, proposing to wash it off after the exhibition.

Westall feared that objections to the unadorned figure might be raised, particularly as the Royal Family was expected to visit the exhibition. Royal sensitivities are not so well considered today, as we saw during the recent Antipodean tour.

Yours truly,
BRIAN R. BATTERSBY,
Longdale House,
Wincle,
Macclesfield,
Cheshire,
March 15.

Keeping out the cold

From Rosie Llewellyn-Jones
Sir, Mr Arnold Freedman's delightful description in today's *Times* (March 17) of keeping warm in Iran leads him to speculate that the word *kursi* may be the origin of our English word "cozy". A nice idea but in fact *kursi* is simply the Farsi word for chair and presumably by extrapolation the name of the rug-covered heated table.

Sincerely,
ROSIE LLEWELLYN-JONES,
135 Burntwood Lane, SW17,
March 17.

Doubt on animal experiments Bill

From Mr Richard D. Ryder and others

Sir, We would like to support the views critical of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Bill expressed by Bishop Agnellus Andrew and other religious leaders (February 22). We have worked in animal laboratories and we believe this Government Bill is inadequate for at least the ten following reasons:

1. It does not stop pain in animal experiments. In fact the Bill hardly mentions pain at all.
2. It does not stop LD50, Draize, or cosmetics or non-medical testing on animals. It allows experiments for a far wider range of purposes than in the current law (clause 5).
3. It does not require experimenters to use feasible humane alternative techniques, nor to be skilled in pain killing. (The White Paper promised more).
4. It does not give animal welfare an equal say with industry and academics.
5. The guidelines (draft Home Office guidance) sound quite good, but they have no legal standing, they are not explicitly admissible as evidence and they can be scrapped or changed without Parliament's approval.
6. The codes of practice on which the Bill depends have not even been published yet.
7. The Bill itself is almost empty of prohibitions or guarantees.
8. Under the Bill, almost all will depend on the compassion and determination of the Home Secretary and on his or her time to give attention to the subject. This "enabling" Bill enables Government to bypass Parliament.
9. It increases the secrecy of animal experimentation and threatens to send to prison those who breach "confidentiality" (clause 24).
10. The new Home Office committee will be stacked with scientists and will be able to appoint powerful sub-committees entirely composed of the experimenters themselves (clauses 19-20).

Yours faithfully,
R. D. RYDER (clinical psychologist),
A. WALDER (laboratory technician, cancer research),
HAROLD HEWITT (retired experimental pathologist),
GILL LANGLEY (biologist),
WILLIAM JORDAN (veterinary surgeon),
Hay House,
Haytor Vale,
Devon,
March 7.

From the Chairman of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Council
Sir, With the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Bill having reached a critical stage in its passage through

exploited in this way. Lists of replacement equipment consist largely of perfectly satisfactory machines which are not a danger to patients but which outside commercial interests are virtually forcing the NHS to replace. The new unit managers in the NHS could if nothing else end this practice.

No private corporation would tolerate our present NHS procedures and when this changes, Professor Shuster will find that his own local list of "replacement" equipment will largely disappear. Yours sincerely,
B. J. BOUGHTON,
The Queen Elizabeth Hospital,
Edgbaston,
Birmingham,
March 17.

relatively low income who takes on, in good faith, a credit commitment and then cannot meet it because of an unforeseen disaster, unemployment, a death or illness in the family, the break-up of a marriage.

One way of helping people to avoid such a situation is better information. The National Consumer Council strongly supports the suggestion that the credit industry should help to support better information services for those faced with an ever-extending choice of more and more complex credit offers.

This is not, *pace* Mr Levin, a nanny state at work. It is sound market-place common sense. Debts that go bad are a disaster for individual consumers. They are also unwelcome to those offering credit. Providing the information to avoid them is a sound investment in the future.

Yours sincerely,
MAURICE HEALY,
Deputy Director,
National Consumer Council,
18 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1,
March 19.

Coach chaos

From Mr Michael Sissons
Sir, The first cuckoo is of less significance to Londoners as an omen of spring these days than the first influx of tourist coaches. I claim the first sighting this Monday morning, when by 9.30 Margaret Street, in front of the Palace of Westminster, was lined with coaches, half of them European, from Lambeth Bridge to Parliament Square, with a traffic warden looking on bemused.

When will the Minister of

extremely expensive-to-produce book of incomprehensible (to me) figures from one firm, contradicting what another firm has said to me the day before.

I could wish that, instead of this squandering of so much money on me, a little extra sum could be added to my small dividends. Yours faithfully,
B. O. COOPER,
67 Portfield Street, Hereford.

Weighty advice

From Mrs E. O. Cooper

Sir, Apropos your letter from Mr John Baulfield (March 8), I have a very few eggs, not only in Imps' basket but also in Distillers' basket.

Consequently hardly a day passes without an enormous white envelope pushed through my letter box and thudding on to the doormat, containing an obviously

ON THIS DAY

March 26 1965

The first civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery was on March 7 when the 600 black people who took part were driven back by state troops using batons and tear-gas. Following a court injunction ordering Governor Wallace to refrain from harassing the march, President Johnson mobilised National Guardsmen and military police to protect it, and 3,200 people set out on March 21. On the 30th the governor received a 16-man delegation bearing a petition for black rights.

"WE SHALL OVERCOME"

From Our Own Correspondent
WASHINGTON, MARCH 25
The civil rights march on Montgomery, the state capital of Alabama and the first seat of the Confederate Government, ended today without incident. The marchers appear not to have much eroded the defences of this bastion of white supremacy, but clearly they have achieved their first purpose of rallying national support for the new voting Bill.

Thousands of Negroes and whites came from all parts of the country to join in this symbolic act of inter-racial unity in a city proud to call itself the heart of Dixie. Some had walked only a few miles from terminal or railway station, and among the galaxy of film stars and other entertainers there may have been a few publicity seekers; no matter, the impact upon the national conscience seems to have been enormous.

As was expected, Mr. Wallace, the Governor, refused to receive representatives of the marchers, whose number had risen to about 17,000. He was willing to accept a petition from citizens of Alabama, should they present themselves "in a proper and moral manner", but only after the marchers had dispersed.

The long column of marchers, who approached the Capitol building singing "We shall overcome" and shouting "Freedom", gathered to listen to their leaders, who came armed with a petition. It said in part:

"We come petitioning you to join us in spirit and in truth what is history's movement toward the Great Society: a nation of justice where none shall prey upon the weakness of the other; a nation of plenty where greed and poverty shall be done away; a nation of brotherhood where success is founded upon service and not given for nobleness alone."

"We have come not only five days and 50 miles but we have come from three centuries of suffering and hardship and have come to you, the Governor of Alabama, to declare that we must have our freedom now; we must have the right to vote; we must have equal protection of the law and an end to police brutality."

For the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, the Negro leader, it was a return to the beginnings of his non-violent movement. It was in Montgomery in 1955 and 1956 that he organized the bus strike after a Negro woman had refused to give up a seat to a white. When that small beginning recalled, one can see how far the movement has come in less than a decade.

Then thousands of Negro labourers and charwomen trudged miles to and from work day after day, month after month, each for a total distance far greater than the 54 miles from Selma. By comparison, the arduous of the march for the few hundreds who set off from Brown's Chapel in that unhappy town were easily supportable, but complete it they did in spite of rain and southern sun, and the reward should be something more than the right to sit in a bus.

At the beginning of the march, Dr. King said: "Walk together children. Don't you get weary, and it will lead you to the promised land." Today the organizers warned the marchers not to talk to unknown people or answer back, and go straight home after the meeting. The Army, the National Guard and F.B.I. agents were much in evidence, and altogether the promised land could not have looked very promising...

BUSINESSMEN CAUTIONS

The business community, which has hopefully boosted the city as the home of progress, was more cautious. Racial antagonism does not always frighten away industry. Both Selma and Birmingham are doing well, but Montgomery does have an unsavoury reputation for violence and businessmen called for restraint. A local newspaper advised its readers to ignore the march.

Overall, however, were two disciplines: the discipline of federal authority personified by armed troops standing on every street corner, and the Negro discipline of non-violence. The first was clearly necessary today, but only the second will carry the country to the promised land which Dr. King describes with such religious fervour.

President Johnson said this afternoon that things were going well in Montgomery...

Meaningful terms

From Mr K. H. Johnson
Sir, In one of your American contemporaries earlier this week, I noticed that what in that country used to be called a "girdle" was advertised as a "de-emphasiser". Yours faithfully,
K. W. JOHNSON,
Tanat,
77 Wolsey Road,
Moor Park,
Northwood,
Middlesex,
March 21.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1364.7 (-29.9)
FT-SE 100
1633.8 (-30.1)
USM (Datastream)
116.81 (-2.47)

THE POUND

US Dollar
1.4620 (-0.0280)
W German mark
3.4167 (+0.0128)
Trade-weighted
75.4 (-0.5)

Index falls 29 points

The stock market's steep rise went sharply into reverse yesterday, wiping billions of pounds off share values, as sterling weakened against the US dollar and worries over the oil price persisted.

After rising strongly following the Budget, the FT-30 share index dropped 29.9 points to finish at 1,364.7.

The pound sank overnight against the dollar, ending the day 2.2 cents down at \$1.4615. The sterling index, however, was down by only 0.5 at 75.4.

The fall on the Stock Exchange wiped £5.25 billion off share values, easily the biggest one-day fall ever in value terms.

Booker rise

Booker McConnell yesterday reported pretax profits for the year to December 31 of £46.5 million, up 26 per cent on 1984. Turnover was up 8 per cent to £1,188 million and the dividend was raised from 9p to 12p. *Tempos, page 19*

Lasmo surge

Lasmo's group profit after tax rose 19 per cent in the year to December 31 to £37.7 million. Oil production increased by 28 per cent to 45,800 barrels per day. The dividend is maintained at 12.2p. *Tempos, page 19*

Good Friday

The Times will publish a full service of financial news and information on Good Friday, making it the first quality newspaper to carry Thursday's prices and financial news. The Friday paper will publish Stock Exchange and unit trust prices. These will be repeated in Saturday's edition, which will also carry a large Family Money section.

Jonas talks

Jonas Woodhead has received an approach which may or may not lead to an offer being made for the whole of the ordinary share capital of the company.

DRG search

DRG has confirmed that it is in the process of identifying a purchaser for its carous business in Fishponds, Bristol. The company is also examining the possibility of a management/employee buyout.

Steel venture

The British Steel Corporation and Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds have agreed to form United Engineering Steels, a jointly-owned company which has acquired the manufacturing activities of BSC special steels business and GKN's special steels and forgings operations.

Crest issue

Crest Nicholson is raising about £16.9 million through a rights issue of 14.4 million new shares at 140p on a one-for-five basis to increase growth in the property division.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York
Dow Jones 1775.14 (-7.79)
Nikkei Dow 14828.87 (-148.36)
Hang Seng 1026.71 (-8.58)
Amsterdam Gen 220.4 (-2.5)
Sydney AO 1108.9 (+11.5)
Frankfurt
Commerzbank 2048.2 (+4.5)
Brenntag 451.04 (+3.21)
Paris CAC 323.5 (-22.8)
Zurich
SKA General 509.40 (same)

GOLD

London Fixing
AM \$252.00-255.75
Close \$247.00-247.75 (\$238.00-226.75)
New York
Comex \$348.50-349.10

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISER:
A and G Sed 48p (+60)
Woodhead 43p (+90)
Tiger Kemsley 129p (+50)
Kearney 145p (+30)
Unilever 229p (+40)
Pru 175p (+20)
AC Cars 183p (+11p)

FALLS:
Blue Circle 881p (-17p)
BP 538p (-13p)
Hawker 987p (-18p)
ICI 951p (-16p)
Lucas 613p (-15p)
British Aero 583p (-15p)
AB Electric 290p (-20p)
Amstrad 388p (-12p)
Really Useful 340p (-10p)
Eucalyptus Pulp 438p (-45p)
Acquasium 84p (-30p)
Woolworth 625p (-12p)
Woolhouse Rink 190p (-15p)
P and O 535p (-13p)
Lloyds 629p (-18p)
Rosenburg 555p (-30p)

CURRENCIES

London
£: \$1.4620
£: DM2.3970
£: Sfr2.8555
£: FF10.4752
£: Van20.23
£: Index: 75.4

INTEREST RATES

London
Bank Base: 11 1/2%
3-month interbank 11 1/2-11 3/4%
3-month eligible bills: 11 1/2-11%
buying rate
US:
Prime Rate 9%
Federal Funds 7 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 6.37-6.35%
30-year bonds 11 5/8-11 1/2%

UB offer for Imps 'final' after OFT clears way

By Cliff Feltham

United Biscuits, the Crawford and McVie's group, received permission to press on with its bid for Imperial Group yesterday and promptly announced that it would not be raising its £2.5 billion offer.

The Office of Fair Trading waved the bid through after Imperial agreed to sell its Golden Wonder crisps business to Dalgety, a move aimed at escaping a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

United Biscuits' chairman, Sir Hector Laing, then announced that his current offer — still some way below the rival bid from Hanson Trust — would not be raised and would close on April 11.

"Shareholders of Imperial can now decide on the intrinsic merits of the two competing offers. We are confident that they will conclude that our offer, which has infinitely

greater commercial benefits, is the better", he said.

As a sweeter Sir Hector forecast a 19 per cent rise in dividends this year to 9.5p, saying that United's Kebler subsidiary in the United States was doing much better than expected.

"Our offer is very fair and provides a firm base for the future", he said. "The institutions we have seen have been swayed by the arguments we have put forward and can see short and long-term advantages in accepting our offer."

Mr Geoffrey Kent, the chairman of Imperial — the John Player cigarette and Courage beer group — which is backing the get-together with United Biscuits, said: "The decks are now cleared for a straight fight. The raising of the dividend by United Biscuits was a confident move and the market has seen it as such. The next three weeks



Sir Hector Laing: "greater commercial benefits"

will see whether the institutions and our private shareholders are looking for short-term cash or are going to support a highly profitable long-term company which is going to grow its own business and not rely on larger and larger acquisitions."

The United Biscuits move brought a sharp response from the Hanson camp. Mr Russell

Edey of the merchant bank Rothschild said: "I think their decision has increased our chance of winning. While I always thought there was a possibility of them raising their offer they obviously were worried about knocking the value of their existing shareholders and this must have weighed quite heavily with them."

"They are asking shareholders in Imperial to choose between two different types of management — but at a cost to themselves. It is one thing to say back us when prices are evenly matched, but quite a different matter when shareholders are being asked to accept a lower offer on the grounds that the board gets on better with the other camp."

The movement in the share prices of the two rivals yesterday left Hanson Trust's "best shot" offer worth 362p — 27p more than the 335p United Biscuits terms.

Prudential profit up by 39%

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

The Prudential Corporation, Britain's largest insurance group, yesterday revealed a 39 per cent boost in pretax profits for last year after strong improvement in its reinsurance business.

But although some areas of long term life business continued to grow, the Pru was still affected by losses on general insurance and overseas operations.

Total pretax profits for the group rose from £78 million in 1984 to £108.6 million last year.

Overall profits on long-term business remained almost static, rising only 1 per cent from £136 million to £137.7 million, despite an underlying growth in premium income of 6 per cent to £1.7 billion.

Allowing for the exclusion of non-recurrent amounts such as special reversionary bonuses, the increase in profits was 11 per cent.

The Pru said that several areas of long term business had performed sluggishly last year, including new pensions which had been hit by the uncertainty caused by new pensions legislation planned by the Government.

The dividend for the year is being increased by 3.5p to 26p.

P&O profits up 39.2% to £125 million

The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, headed by Sir Jeffrey Sterling, has turned in pretax profits of £125.6 million for the year ended December 31 compared with £90.2 million the previous year.

Another £3 million went into the group's profit-sharing scheme.

The expected bid for either European Ferries or Overseas Containers did not materialize.

These are the first figures from P&O since its merger with Sir Jeffrey's re-named Sterling Guarantee Trust, formerly Town & City. Earnings per £1 deferred stock are up by 51 per cent to 34.9p.

The dilution produced by the Sterling Guarantee merger has been extinguished in one year.

The company is recommending a total dividend for the year of 16p compared with 14p in 1984.

Aerospace request for launch aid

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

British Aerospace, which yesterday revealed 1985 profits of £130 million, is to seek full Government financial backing of about £500 million for its share in the work on the next European Airbus airliner.

Despite a 25 per cent boost in pretax profits over 1984, and huge cash reserves, the company said it would need Government launch aid to help it to spread the risk during the long lead times associated with aircraft development.

Airbus Industrie, in which BAE as the wing-maker has a 20 per cent stake, has given the go-ahead for a detailed study of the A330 and A340, the next two airliners to be built by the consortium.

They will be four-engined, long-haul aircraft aimed at the airlines' so-called long thin routes.

Sir Austin Pearce, the BAE chairman, denied that the company had asked the Government for 100 per cent launch aid although it is clear that the company will begin negotiations, probably at the end of May, on the basis of its entire development expenditure being covered by state loans.

The Airbus supervisory board is to present the consor-



Sir Austin Pearce: further study on airliner

tium partners of the UK, France, West Germany and Spain, with a detailed assessment in May and Sir Austin said this would be followed by further study by BAE.

BAE's order book at the end of 1985 was £5,138m compared with £4,820m a year earlier.

This did not include orders arising from the £5 billion deal between British and Saudi Arabia for the supply of Tornados and other military equipment and which will have a significant impact on profits for 1986. A pre-tax figure of about £21.5m is being forecast.

The dividend was raised from 53.5p to 56.4p. *Tempos, page 19*

Standard Chartered beats currency loss

By Our Banking Correspondent

Standard Chartered, the international banking group with strong interests in the Far East, Africa and the United States, yesterday announced a 12 per cent increase in pretax profits despite £38 million loss through adverse exchange rate fluctuations. The results include British profits more than doubling during last year while profits in South East Asia more than halved.

The group turned in pretax profits last year of £267.9 million, up from £239.6 million in 1984. Although Standard Chartered shares had fallen 13p earlier in the day as the whole banking sector weakened, the results were slightly better than expected and the shares ended the day back at their opening price of 547p.

Commenting on the results the chairman, Lord Barber, said that the group's exposure to exchange rate movements

had produced a strongly adverse effect on last year's results. If the same exchange rates had obtained last year as in 1984, the pretax profit would have been nearly £60 million higher, he said. Of the currency loss, £21 million related to Stanbic — the South African operation — which was hit by the fall in the value of the rand. Most of the rest related to adverse movements in the dollar.

Profits from Stanbic dropped from £54.3 million to £35.6 million. Standard Chartered said that its stake in the bank would drop to below 40 per cent this year. Without the Stanbic result Standard Chartered's profit would have been up by 25 per cent last year, Lord Barber said.

UK profits, however, leapt from £54.7 million to £135.7 million as off-balance-sheet activities made a sharply increased contribution.

Pergamon in £238m share deal

By Jeremy Warner, Business Correspondent

Mr Robert Maxwell's privately-owned Pergamon Press is selling its highly profitable scientific publishing interests to British Printing and Communications Corporation in a £238.65 million share exchange deal that will significantly tidy up Mr Maxwell's business empire.

The deal will boost Pergamon's interest in BPCC from the present 56 per cent to just under 75 per cent and is subject to approval by minority shareholders in BPCC.

BPCC said the acquisition would result in an immediate increase in the profitability and market capitalization of the company providing a base for further expansion in the publishing and communications field.

Mirror Group Newspapers will remain with Pergamon though most of its printing has already been contracted to BPCC. Mr Maxwell has set a mid-1987 deadline for removal of newspaper production from the Holborn Circus plant in central London to an alternative site owned by BPCC.

The scientific journal acquisition would give BPCC the cash flow it needed to help meet the considerable planned investment in new printing facilities, the company said.

BPCC listed contract printing of national newspapers as one of three principle areas of growth.

The company said: "Separation of newspaper printing from publishing is offering breakthrough opportunities for both publishers and printers to use their particular skills fully to the benefit of their shareholders and staff."

BPCC said that yet-to-be announced profits for last year would not be less than £25 million, while Pergamon would make pretax profits of about £26.1 million in the year to the end of this month. In 1984, BPCC made profits of £22.25 million but this included property profits of £6.64 million.

The documentation of the deal casts no new light on the mystery surrounding the ultimate ownership of Pergamon which is hidden behind a Liechtenstein registered charitable trust.

Dealings in BPCC shares were suspended on the Stock Exchange yesterday at 230p ahead of the deal.

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Balancing act ahead for the little men

In the Chinese year of the tiger the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries has become a paper tiger. The only subject on which it managed to agree after nine days of discussion was to meet again on April 15. The immediate expectation is that oil prices will continue their drift downward to \$10 per barrel and below, now that the spring season of low demand is almost upon us.

This prospect brings into question the continued existence of the independent oil sector. The financial resources of the smaller exploration companies were always slender. When the oil price was rising the shareholders could always be relied upon to subscribe to rights issues. Acreage could be farmed out to help to pay for the cost of drilling. And there was always the possibility of a bid.

Now the bidders are themselves in financial straits and, far from farming into the many juicy drilling prospects now around, are themselves looking for ways to cut back on drilling expenditure. In this, they are encouraged by their partners, the smaller independents. They are finding it increasingly difficult to pay their way, despite, perhaps even because of, the purchases of Forties and Claymore units.

Most of these units were bought when the oil price was \$30, largely with borrowed money, much of it limited recourse. The income from the production was liable to petroleum revenue tax and corporation tax, and would provide tax shelter for these companies' drilling programmes. Of every \$1 spent on

drilling, up to 80 cents would be supplied by the Government as tax relief.

The fall in the oil price has made a nonsense of this strategy. The tax payable on the units will become negligible and the cash flow will be swallowed up in interest and loan repayments, with disastrous results for the companies' ability to pay for any kind of credible drilling programme.

Their North Sea oil production will continue more or less unchanged, but cash flow is dwindling. Out of ever-decreasing income these companies must support interest payments, overheads, including exploration teams recruited during the boom years, and tax on production depending on the level to which drilling is cut back. For many it will be a delicate balancing act between keeping up interest and loan repayments and not throwing money down the drain by doing too little drilling to use up the tax shelter.

If Opec fails to raise the oil price by re-instituting production controls — and there is every reason to believe that it will fail — then the oil price may not recover until after 1990. Under these circumstances, drilling is only for those who will still be around in the 1990s. Many of the small oil companies will not make it and it will be left to the majors to Hoover up the debris.

This is unlikely to occur for some time, however, as the oil price has not yet settled down and even those with money to spend on unfashionable oil assets will wait until the sellers are desperate.

Industry endorses Lawson

The Confederation of British Industry has provided the Chancellor with encouraging support at the most vulnerable point of his Budget forecast.

Its own new view of the economy, published today, suggests growth of only 2 1/2 per cent this year, compared with the Treasury's forecast of 3 per cent growth. And this is not enough to make more than a trivial dent in the level of unemployment. But like the Chancellor, the CBI now expects growth to be much better balanced, with exports and investment leading the way.

Export orders, says the CBI, have started to recover strongly after the winter setback. Its forecast for trade is much the same as the Chancellor's, with strong growth in exports just outpacing by the rise in imports, but with the current account of the balance of payments remaining in surplus this year and next. On investment, however, the CBI is even more optimistic than the Treasury, foreseeing an increase of about 6 1/2 per cent in fixed capital formation this year and nearly as much of an increase again next year.

The public sector is responsible for none of this growth, a source of constant complaint by the CBI: its forecasts assume that the Government, including public corporations, actually cuts its investment by a full 5 per cent this year. Nor does manufacturing industry's improved prospects, after the fall in oil prices and the exchange rate, hold the key. But stronger investment is expected in

housebuilding, and the financial and distribution sectors.

However, lower oil prices are the main factor in producing a rosier outlook for the economy as a whole, according to CBI economists. This year, the main benefit of the fall in oil prices is felt in lower inflation: the CBI's forecast is close to the Chancellor's, with inflation averaging 3.7 per cent this year and falling to 3.4 per cent in 1987. Next year, lower oil prices are also expected to speed up growth: the CBI is expecting a 2.8 per cent rise in output in 1987, which is a whisker more than the Chancellor's first indications for next year.

This cheerful forecast, therefore, endorses the Chancellor's view that the weakness in the economy at the turn of the year was only a blip on the screen. The March monthly trends inquiry, published alongside the quarterly economic forecast, shows that while export order books are still, on average, below normal, they have improved considerably from the January position. In January, a balance of 19 per cent of companies had export orders below normal. This fell to 10 per cent last month and 7 per cent this month.

The CBI, however, continues to nag the Government on interest and exchange rates. It is still pressing the Chancellor to accept the need for greater exchange rate stability, as represented by full membership of the European Monetary System. On that subject, however — as the CBI well knows — there is no point addressing its remarks anywhere but to No 10, Downing Street.

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TEMPUS

Unknown profits from Bae's Saudi order

Confirmation of the £5 billion Saudi order for Tornados and other aircraft, weapons and ground support has taken British Aerospace's shares by storm. In the past month they have jumped from 440p to over 600p, though yesterday they lost some of their height, falling by 25p to 583p.

The belief that this order dramatically transforms the outlook for British Aerospace is widespread in the City, so yesterday's figures were widely viewed as an interesting piece of history, rather than a guide to the future.

Profits rose from £120 million to £151 million before tax, with most of the increase coming from the military aircraft and weapons lines. Civil aircraft made a loss of £4.9 million, having made a profit of £7.5 million last year.

The Saudi order will keep the military aircraft and weapons lines in the forefront, but it is not yet clear how much of the £5 billion, half of which will be subcontracted, will substitute for other orders. And, with 14 separate contracts involved, it is difficult to estimate the average margin on the work, which is to be spread over three years, initially at least.

At this stage forecasts of the contribution from the order can only be very approximate. In theory, a profit of 10 per cent would be worth £500 million to operating profits, in addition to which there will be some benefit from the interest received on down payments.

Against operating profits last year of £180 million and interest received of £18.6 million the potential is clearly huge.

In practice, however, the Saudi order is unlikely to lead to doubled profits, though it clearly marks a watershed for the company, especially if further orders follow.

Meanwhile, British Aerospace faces continuing high expenditure on the civil aircraft side, though much depends on the assessment of the potential for the Airbus 330/340 project and subsequent negotiations with the Government over funding. British Aerospace claims its relations with the Government are unchanged following the Westland saga, but that remains to be seen.

In the current year profits are likely to rise to about £200 million leaving the shares at 583p trading on nine times earnings, after a higher tax

charge. While that rating looks modest, the shares can not be expected to fly ever higher.

Lasso

Lasso has not yet batted down the hatches. It has maintained its 1985 dividend at 12.2p net, putting the shares on an historical gross yield of 14.5 per cent at the current price of 120p.

On the basis of the results published yesterday for the year to December 31, a cut in the dividend is not justified. Oil production increased to 45,800 barrels per day, up by 28 per cent compared with 1984.

Turnover reached a record £303 million, a 21 per cent increase over the same period. Reported earnings per ordinary share were 31.3p against 29.7p, leaving the dividend 2 1/2 times covered.

No company will take lightly the decision to cut its dividend. But unless oil prices recover sharply, Lasso may wish that it had started the process of reducing the payout to the shareholders sooner.

The immediate pain caused by the falling oil price can be eased by cutting back severely on exploration. It is impossible to give exact figures at this stage as 22 out of the 25 North Sea wells which Lasso had budgeted for this year are operated by others.

Of the three Lasso-operated wells, only one is now firmly scheduled to be drilled in the autumn. With these and other cuts, mainly in exploration, the capital budget is planned to fall by at least 30 per cent this year, a saving of £50 million.

Lasso has the advantage of having extensive overseas acreage in Australia, Canada, the United States, Indonesia and Colombia. The price of oil is no different in these places, but the costs of operating are usually much less than in the North Sea. A company with cash can pick up unpromoted acreage at what look like quite reasonable prices these days.

The question is: are the prices reasonable enough? The oil market is far from settled and no one knows where the oil price will stabilize.

Lasso has cash and securities amounting to £225 million, but it also has debt of some £325 million which has to be serviced. Overheads have to be paid, payments on the oil production stock units have to be met and field operating costs have to be

paid. And of course there is next year's dividend. Stability is what the industry craves. It professes to be less concerned with the absolute level of prices than that they should not fluctuate violently and unpredictably as it makes planning impossible.

But for the sake of the independent oil sector's health, they should not fall too far for too long. Otherwise the only plans that will be made will be for funerals.

Booker McConnell

The reason for Booker McConnell's low share rating is to be found in City restaurants.

At dining room tables stockbrokers and fund managers can be seen ordering red meat and heavy food, while Booker's strategy focuses heavily on the trend to healthy living.

Professional investors may like their diet but they have to acknowledge the commercial attractions of such a fundamental shift in eating habits.

Yesterday Booker announced a 26 per cent increase in pretax profits to £46.5 million, just beating the forecast made at the time of Dec Corporation's bid last year.

That was despite the rise in sterling against the dollar which cost £2.75 million.

Including the benefit of a full year's contribution from acquisitions made in 1984 and the £400,000 profit from Fitch Lovell's cash and carry business, bought last year, there was probably a boost of £2.5 million from acquisitions.

The rest of the increase reflected organic growth, particularly in the American poultry breeding business which is benefiting from growing demand for white meat and low feed prices. At home the salmon farming and forestry businesses also did well.

The retailing business consisting of Holland & Barrett and the Kingswood chain of chemists are growing, but American Health has been sold having made losses last year.

It remains to be seen whether Booker opts for a big acquisition or sticks to its traditional policy of building on existing businesses.

That uncertainty is more than discounted by the multiple of 13 times prospective earnings, assuming profits rise to £53 million this year.

On an increased dividend the shares at 343p yield 5 per cent.

Malaysia to start tin futures

By Michael Prest
Financial Correspondent

Malaysia believes that commodity agreements are dead and intends to introduce a tin futures contract on the Kuala Lumpur Commodities Exchange, in addition to the existing natural rubber and palm oil contracts. Mr Paul Leong, the Malaysian primary industries minister said yesterday.

But Malaysia was very concerned about the oversupply in most commodity markets. Mr Leong said. He added: "In view of this syndrome commodity agreements have proved to be ineffective."

Mr Leong said that Malaysia had been considering a tin contract for some time, but its launch had been delayed by the tin crisis. He said: "We had no intention of aggravating the situation but today it would be different."

The London Metal Exchange effectively abandoned its tin contract this month after the failure of the International Tin Council and its creditors to reach agreement on the exchange to settle outstanding contracts at a fixed price of \$6,250 a tonne.

Mr Leong accepted, however, that there was no hope of reviving the price regulating functions of the International Tin Council, of which Malaysia is a member. He said: "When you talk about a free market you can't do anything about it."

He added: "Events have proved that the tin agreement is not effective in view of the structural oversupply of tin." Mr Leong estimated that at present tin prices of between £3,000 and £4,000 a tonne only 22 mines in Malaysia producing 10,000 tonnes a year were economic.

Mr Leong did not believe that the tin producers wanted to revive the tin agreement. The likely outcome was that the ITC would become a statistical organization.

Share prices tumble on Middle East fears

Share prices were in full-scale retreat yesterday as investors rushed to take profits in the wake of heightening tension in the Middle East and Opec's failure to reach agreement on a production strategy. Losses reached double figures in most sectors.

The FT-30 index fell 29.9 points to 1364.7, while the FT-SE 100 tumbled 30.1 points to 1633.8. The FT-30's previous biggest drop was 27.9 points on October 17, 1984.

Fears that another early cut in interest rates will now be postponed indefinitely hit consumer sectors like stores, breweries, foods and builders.

Banks tumbled after a bad debt storm returned. A constant stream of mainly favourable trading statements from big companies failed to help sentiment and there was little sign of a rally by the official closing bell.

Among leaders, ICI dipped 16p to 951p, still overshadowed by EEC price-fixing allegations. Hawker at 587p, Blue Circle, 661p, Beecham, 361p and Thera EMI, 457p, were others to decline by 14p to 17p.

Government stocks suffered, too, with losses of more than 1 1/2 points, although the pound held up well against Continental currencies.

British Aerospace, a strong market recently, slipped 38p to 570p as pretax profits of £150 million failed to match expectations. Lucas, reporting interim figures today, fell 15p to 613p in sympathy.

P & O was another to disappoint at 535p, down 13p, even though pretax profits showed a rise of nearly 40 per cent. Imperial Group held steady at 347p after trading between extremes of 356p and 340p as United Biscuits declared that its latest bid (cleared by the Office of Fair Trading) was final.

Dealers now think that the

Hanson bid will win by a narrow margin. Hanson slipped 5p to 174p, while United Biscuits rallied 5p to 240p.

In dull builders, Crest Nicholson receded 8p to 158p on news of a £17 million rights issue. Higher profits failed to help Bryant Holdings at 116p, down 6p. C H Beazer, 5p lower at 628p. A 9 per cent profit setback knocked 12p from J. Maudslays at 166p.

In stores, Combined English failed to satisfy the optimists with a 35 per cent expansion. The shares dropped 15p to 221p. Woolworth, reporting today, retreated 12p to 626p.

Burton at 314p and Gus "A" at 934p were others to weaken 16p and 20p respectively, while news of a £6 million cash-call lopped 9p from Aquascutum "A" at 84p.

Sharply lower profits and no dividend cut 10p from Rockware at 39p. A £2 million rights issue was enough to clip 3p from Albert Heijn at 99p, while a 5 per cent reduction in earnings upset W. Canning at 123p.

A 28 per cent profits increase was discounted at Booker, down 7p to 343p.

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES		SAG Int (100p)	
Abbott M V (180p)	226-4	SPP (125p)	138 +2
Ashley (L) (135p)	211-8	Templeton (215p)	158-1
BPP (160p)	190-5	Sigmax (101p)	84-2
Brookmount (160p)	180-2	Snowdon & B (97p)	117
Chart FL (86p)	93-1	Spice (80p)	99
Chancery Secs (63p)	78	Tech Comp (130p)	204-7
Conv 9% A 2000	227 1/2-1 1/2	Underwoods (150p)	185
Granswick M (95p)	105-2	Wellcome (120p)	212-2
Dialens (128p)	188-12	W York Hosp (80p)	78
Ferguson (J) (10p)	32	Wicks (140p)	170-3
Granya Surface (68p)	88	RIGHTS ISSUES	
Inoco (55p)	42-5	Cullens N/P	75
JS Pathology (160p)	278-12	Hartwells N/P	4
Jarvis Porter (105p)	130-5	MMW Comp	114-1
Kearfoot (118p)	118-3	Porter Chad F/P	104
Lexicon (115p)	138	Safeway LK	247-2
Macro 4 (105p)	144	Wates F/P	148-1
Merivale M (115p)	106-8	Westland F/P	85
Norank Sys (90p)	106-8	(Issue price in brackets).	
Really Useful (330p)	340-10		

Bankers hit at register

By Richard Thomson
Banking Correspondent

The English and Scottish clearing banks yesterday attacked the proposals being considered by the Department of Trade on the registration of life assurance and unit trust salesmen.

In a document to the DTI, the Committee of London and Scottish Clearing Banks said the proposals would increase administrative costs to several million pounds without achieving their real purpose.

The proposals on registration were put forward by the Securities and Investments Board and the Marketing of Investments Board Organizing Committee.

The banks' document complains that they were not consulted when the proposals were drawn up and do not meet objections put up to an earlier set of proposals last year.

The banks called for urgent talks with the DTI and the SIB because they were becoming increasingly alarmed at the impracticality of many proposals being put forward on the selling of unit trusts and life assurance.

"We are in favour of a list of rogue salesmen, but not of a huge index of reputable ones," the document says. Mr Philip Wilkinson, chief executive of National Westminster and chairman of the bank's chief executive officers' committee, said that the extra layer of bureaucracy set up by a brokers' register would create unnecessary cost for no extra benefit.

The banks have 50,000 staff involved in marketing life assurance and unit trusts. The cost of registering each individual would come to around £2 million with a further annual £1 million compliance cost. The expense would eventually have to be borne by the client, the document says.

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Nearly 130 years ago, we opened a branch in Shanghai, to serve trade between China and the rest of the world.

Long before any other Western banks opened branches, it had become so well-established that the Chinese gave it a name in their own language.

(Even today in Shanghai, many people will be able to help you if you ask for directions to "Makalee.") Perhaps even more remarkably, it has provided an uninterrupted service ever since it began.

Today, it has been joined by offices in Beijing, Xiamen, Guangzhou and Shenzhen.

Which suggests that when you need information and expert services to help you seize the burgeoning opportunities for business with today's China, Standard Chartered is the bank you should talk to first.

It also says a good deal about the depth of our involvement in the countries where we work all over the world.

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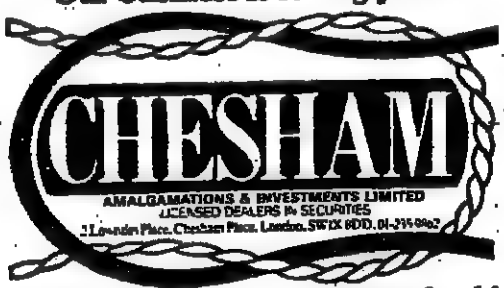
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NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Clerical Medical
Life Assurance

Annual General Meeting

Notice is given that the 162nd Annual General Meeting of the Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance Society will be held at the Principal Office of the Society, 15 St. James's Square, London SW1Y 4LQ, on Wednesday 23 April 1986 at 2.30 pm for the following purposes:

- 1 To receive the Accounts of the Society for the year ended 31 December 1985 and the Directors' and Auditors' Reports thereon.
- 2 To re-elect Directors.
- 3 To re-appoint the Auditors and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.
- 4 To transact any other ordinary business of an Annual General Meeting.

Extraordinary General Meeting

Notice is also given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society will be held at the same place and on the same date immediately following the conclusion or adjournment of the Annual General Meeting, to receive a Report from the Directors declaring the results of the actuarial investigation made into the financial condition of the Society as at 31 December 1985, and the amount of the dividend payable in respect of the year ended on that date, and to consider and, if thought fit, pass a resolution to be proposed as a Special Resolution to alter the Laws and Regulations of the Society ("the Regulations") for the following purposes:

- 1 Remuneration of Directors
To alter Sub-Article 1 of Article 38 of the Regulations to allow the 'Members by Ordinary Resolution in General Meeting to fix the remuneration of the directors. At present 'the limits' of directors' remuneration are fixed by the Members and within such limits the Directors agree the actual remuneration payable.

- 2 Distribution of Profits
To alter Sub-Article 5 of Article 65 which presently requires that the results of the annual actuarial investigation into the financial condition of the Society be declared at an Extraordinary General Meeting so as to require in future that this declaration be made at the Annual General Meeting next following the investigation.

- 3 Proceedings at General Meetings
As a consequence of the proposed alterations to Articles 38 and 65 an alteration is proposed to Sub-Article 1 of Article 13 to permit the fixing of the remuneration of directors and the declaration of the results of the annual actuarial investigation into the financial condition of the Society to be dealt with as 'ordinary' business of an Annual General Meeting.

From the date of this Notice until the Extraordinary General Meeting is held, the annual Resolution proposed for consideration at the Meeting may be inspected during normal business hours at the Principal Office and every Branch office of the Society within the United Kingdom.

Any member entitled to attend and vote at the Meetings may appoint a proxy to attend and vote instead of him. A proxy need not be a member of the Society.

Any instrument appointing a proxy must be deposited at the Principal Office of the Society not less than 48 hours before the time fixed for the Meetings.

Principal Office
15 St. James's Square
London SW1Y 4LQ
A. G. McLeary
Secretary
26 March 1986

Newspaper profits up by a third

Pretax profits rose by nearly a third at United Newspapers last year on turnover £117.8 million higher.

An increased final dividend of 10p is recommended, which will also be paid on the new shares issued for the acquisition of Fleet Holdings. The increased dividend, making a total of 16p, against 14.5p previously, will be paid on June 16.

Turnover was £312.26 million, up from £194.42 million, and profit before tax £34.91 million, against £26.71 million.

The results include Fleet Holdings, publisher of the Daily Express, as a related company from February 13 to November 16 and as a wholly-owned subsidiary from November 16.

The prospects for this year and beyond, taking into account the growth expected from acquisitions and long-standing businesses, "should offer rewarding and exciting opportunities to shareholders, employees and managers," according to the company.

United Provincial Newspapers produced an extra 34 per cent profit in spite of static circulation and industrial action by the National Graphical Association at Blackpool and Preston. The magazine division showed advertising revenue up overall.

APPOINTMENTS

Cavanagh Associates - Quickwork Graphics: Mr Mike Cavanagh is made managing director of both companies.

A P Bank: Mr Joe Altherton has become a deputy chairman.

John Willmott Holdings: Mr Ian Dixon is now deputy chairman and Mr Trevor Crow is managing director.

TecnEcon: Mr David Meek has been made director, Glasgow operations.

Menswear Association of Britain: Mr Allan Sayers takes over as chief executive next Tuesday.

Good Relations Public Affairs: Mr Peter Luff has been made deputy managing director.

London Park Holdings: Mr Peter Decker is now on the board as marketing director.

PRUDENTIAL CORPORATION

1985 Results

A year of progress and change

Total profit before tax in 1985 was £108.6m, compared with £78.0m in 1984. Long-term business profits continued to show significant underlying growth, but there was only a modest increase in the reported figure because it included a smaller non-recurrent element than in 1984. The main feature of the general insurance business results was a recovery at Mercantile and General Reinsurance, but this was partly offset by a deterioration in the Overseas Division. There was a small improvement in the United Kingdom.

The directors have declared an increased final dividend of 17p per share, making a total of 26p for the year, compared with 22.5p for 1984. The increase reflects the underlying growth in long-term profits, the encouraging overall improvement in general insurance results and the strength of the solvency margins supporting the Group's insurance business.

Financial Highlights

	1985	1984
	£m	£m
Profit and Loss Account Summary:		
Profit before tax from:		
Long-term business	137.7*	136.1*
General insurance	(53.4)	(79.9)
Shareholders' other income	24.3	21.8
Total profit before tax	108.6	78.0
Tax	(31.5)	(31.9)
Minority interests	(1.0)	(0.9)
Profit attributable to shareholders	76.1	45.2
Earnings per share	25.3p	15.1p
Dividend per share	26.0p	22.5p
Long-term Business:		
Premium income	1,719.1	1,837.5
Surplus for distribution	1,016.7	1,099.9
Policyholders' bonuses	928.3	1,011.3
Shareholders' profit before tax	137.7*	136.1*
General Insurance:		
Premiums written	795.8	788.5
Underwriting result	(131.6)	(161.4)
Investment income	78.2	81.5
Trading profit (loss) before tax	(53.4)	(79.9)
Shareholders' Other Income:		
Investment income	25.5	24.5
Miscellaneous net income	2.6	0.1
Expenses	(3.8)	(2.8)
Other income before tax	24.3	21.8

* There are special features in these items, which are explained and quantified in the text. The abridged income statement for 1985 is an extract from the latest accounts. These accounts have not yet been delivered to the Registrar of Companies, nor have the auditors reported on them.

Long Term Business

We have again made increases in the benefits payable on United Kingdom with-profits policies. As in 1984, some of the increases on assurance policies which would normally have taken the form of terminal bonuses have been declared as special reversionary bonuses, in order to give policyholders greater certainty as to the eventual

proceeds under their policies. Shareholders' profit before tax from long-term business showed a small increase at £137.7m, but excluding the largely non-recurrent amounts resulting from the special reversionary bonuses in the United Kingdom, the underlying profit rose by 11% from £112.4m to £124.4m.

General Insurance Business

The general insurance trading loss before tax of £53.4m represents an encouraging improvement. Total premiums

written rose by 11% in local currency, but by only 1% in sterling terms.

	Premiums written	Underwriting result	Investment income	Trading Profit (loss) before tax
	1985	1984	1985	1984
	£m	£m	£m	£m
UK Division	327.9	279.0	(47.8)	(54.8)
Overseas Division:				
Canada	88.6	100.9	(13.5)	(1.3)
EEC	56.4	51.2	(13.6)	(3.9)
Other Countries	17.0	19.5	(3.3)	(0.5)
London Market-Overseas	26.0	34.8	(3.0)	(5.8)
Marine and Aviation	30.5	26.2	(3.2)	(1.5)
Total Overseas	218.5	232.6	(36.6)	(13.0)
Mercantile & General	249.4	276.9	(47.2)	(93.6)
Total	795.8	788.5	(131.6)	(161.4)
			78.2	81.5
			(53.4)	(79.9)

In the United Kingdom the modest improvement to a trading loss before tax of £25.2m was attributable to a substantial improvement in commercial business offset by a worsening in personal lines. The domestic property result deteriorated compared with 1984, but the beneficial

effect of the corrective measures taken at the start of 1985 became evident in the second half of the year. In the motor account the frequency of claims continued to rise, contributing to a higher trading loss.

In the Overseas Division a sharp deterioration in underwriting results produced a trading loss before tax of £13.0m. In Canada our business suffered from the severe weather conditions early in 1985 and

there was a marked downturn in the motor account. Of the main regional groupings only our Belgian subsidiary and our operations in the London market produced a trading profit.

Mercantile and General's trading loss before tax was much lower at £15.2m. Much of the reduction was due to the corrective action we have taken in recent years, the

effectiveness of which is now being demonstrated by the emerging results of business written since 1983.

Capital Resources: The total capital resources of the Group at the end of 1985 amounted to £555m. The solvency margin of Prudential Assurance and its subsidiaries was

64% and that of the Mercantile and General Reinsurance Group was 67%.

Copies of the Report and Accounts will be available on May 2nd from the Registrar's Department, PRUDENTIAL CORPORATION plc, 142 HOLBORN BARS, LONDON EC1N 2NH

COMPANY NEWS

● **PHILIPS' LAMPS:** The European Investment Bank is lending the company the equivalent of 200 million guilders (£52.6 million) to finance a large-scale investment programme aimed at mastering sub-micron technology, which will be used for the production of the next generation of integrated circuits.

● **KLEARFOLD INC:** Pretax profit for 1985 \$1.36 million (£1.25 million), against \$1.32 million. Turnover \$19.62 million (\$17.91 million). Earnings per share 14.1 cents (8.3 cents).

● **LAMONT HOLDINGS:** Total dividend 4.5p (3.1p) for 1985. Turnover £46.58 million (£40.81 million). Pretax profit £4.61 million (£3.45 million). Earnings per share 19.02p (15.62p).

● **AQUASCUTUM GROUP:** The board is proposing to raise about £5.95 million, after expenses, by the issue of up to 10.13 million new "A" (restricted voting) ordinary shares by a rights issue at 60p per share on the basis of one new "A" ordinary share for every three ordinary and/or "A" held. The issue is not being underwritten. Results for the year ended January 31 (Figures in £000): Turnover 37,859 (33,647). Pretax profit 1,765 (1,220). Earnings per share 4.87p (3.08p). Total dividend 2.5p (2.25p).

● **SPRING RAM CORPORATION:** Total dividend for 1985 1.81p (1.65p). One-for-one scrip issue proposed. Turnover £27.39 million (£19.36 million). Pretax profit £4.43 million (£3.02 million). Earnings per share 16.2p (14.5p). The board reports that the current year has begun well.

● **EUCALYPTUS PULP MILLS:** Dividend for 1985 10p and 5p special payment. Turnover £24.79 million (£23.37 million). Pretax profit £2.9 million (£7.23 million). Earnings per share 59p (136p).

● **BENSON'S CRISPS:** Year to Nov. 30, 1985. No dividend, but the directors intend to restart payments at the earliest practicable date. Turnover £11.21 million (£9.3 million). Pretax profit £204,000 (loss £37,000). Earnings per share 2.9p (loss 17.3p). The company plans to raise about £742,000 (net of expenses) by an underwritten rights issue of 2.62 million new ordinary shares at 30p each on a one-for-two basis.

Higher half-time profits are reported by the British Car Auction Group, which is based in Huddersfield, Surrey. In the six months to Jan. 31 last gross auction proceeds rose from £708.1 million to £731.37 million. Pretax profit on ordinary activities expanded from £3.53 million to £4.74 million. The company also reports extraordinary profits after tax of £1.97 million (nil). Earnings per share reached 3.8p (2.9p). BCG's interim dividend is going up from 1.25p to 1.5p. The results for the 1985 half-year have been restated in respect of the US. The board is confident of good results for the current year.

1985 RESULTS

The Directors announce the results of Standard Chartered Group for 1985, as follows:

	1985	1984
	£ million	£ million
Trading profit		
Company and subsidiaries	205.4	157.5
Share of associated companies	62.5	82.1
Profit before taxation	267.9	239.6
Taxation:		
United Kingdom	(41.4)	33.5
Overseas	60.9	65.3
Share of associated companies	23.3	32.0
	125.6	130.8
Minority interests	142.3	108.8
	9.6	8.7
Profit before extraordinary items	132.7	100.1
Extraordinary items	15.7	(26.7)
Profit attributable to members of the Company	148.4	73.4
Dividends: Interim	16.3	14.8
Final	31.1	29.5
Profit retained	101.0	29.1
Earnings per share	85.3p	64.4p

DIVIDEND: The Directors will recommend at the Annual General Meeting on 8th May, 1986, a final dividend of 20.0 pence per share, making a total distribution for 1985 of 30.5 pence per share. The final dividend will be paid on 16th May, 1986, to shareholders on the Register on 11th April, 1986.

Standard Chartered

Notice to members

C&G Mortgage Rates Down

Mortgages completed after 1st January 1982

In accordance with the Mortgage Conditions notice is given of the following Mortgage Base Rates:

C&G Base Rate 1: 12%	effective from 6 April 1986
C&G Base Rate 2: 12.5%	effective from 6 April 1986
12%	effective from 1 June 1986
C&G Base Rate 3: 11.75%	effective from 6 April 1986
(Cheltenham Goldloan)	

These reductions also apply to mortgage offers already made but not yet completed. Under the Annual Instalment Review procedure there will be no change in borrowers' monthly mortgage payments.

All changes in mortgage rates during 1986, whether up or down, together with the change in the basic rate of income tax, will be taken into account when calculating new monthly mortgage payments payable from March 1987. A full explanation of the Annual Instalment Review was given in the 'Important Notice: Introducing a New Mortgage Payment System' sent to borrowers in January 1986. No individual notices will be issued to borrowers on changes of mortgage rates.

All other Mortgages

Borrowers will receive notice shortly of their revised instalments and rates of interest in accordance with the terms of their Mortgage Deeds.

C&G Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society

Chief Office: Cheltenham House, Clarence Street, Cheltenham, Glos GL50 3JR. Tel: 0242 36161

● **JOHN CROWTHER GROUP:** Final dividend for 1985, 0.5p. Turnover £37.98 million (£10.86 million). Pretax profit £1.83 million (£14,000). Earnings per share 12.3p (5.7p).

● **EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE:** Total dividend for 1985 6.7p (5.5p). The board reports that 1985 was another good year, both in terms of profits and of new business secured. The total long-term business profits allocated to the policyholders and shareholders were £27.5 million, compared with £60.8 million for 1984.

● **BELL GROUP:** Interim results to December 31 (Aug 3000): Net 55,780 (£26,850). Turnover 361,040 (£286,020). Interim dividend 5c (same).

● **KIRSH TRADING GROUP:** Figures produced in Johannesburg show share loss diluted 32.71c (profit 10.7c) for the six months to December 31, a pretax loss of £26.69 million (profit £9.75 million).

● **CLOSE BROTHERS GROUP:** Results for six months to January 31 (£000): Pretax profit 1,145 (£866). Tax 417 (£323). Minority interests debt 6 (nil). Eps 5.58p (4.2p). Interim dividend 2.8p (2.625p), payable May 2.

● **C H BRAZIER (HLDGS):** Results for six months to December 31, and two-for-one scrip issue. (Figures in £000): Turnover 139,562 (£5,844). Pretax profit 10,664 (£6,615). Tax 3,519 (£2,315). Extraordinary credit 1,030 (nil). Eps 22.5p (20.3p). Interim dividend 4.6p (4p), payable May 16. The company has forecast a total dividend on the existing capital of not less than 14p (12p).

In 1985, Johnson Group Cleaners' pretax profits climbed from £6.67 million to £7.78 million. Turnover rose from £70.28 million to £89.39 million. The total dividend is to be raised from 18.6p to 20.5p. Earnings per ordinary share, excluding an exceptional exchange gain, were 37.58p (32.55p) and including the gain, 37.58p (36.51p).

● **JOHN MAUNDERS GROUP:** Half-year to Dec. 31, 1985. Interim dividend 2.4p (2.25p). Turnover £12.37 million (£8.78 million). Pretax profit £856,000 (£936,000). Earnings per share 7.9p (7.6p).

● **A MARTIN HOLDINGS:** Results for 1985 (Figures in £000): Turnover 38,800 (£34,580). Operating profit 1,985 (£1,754). Net finance charge 378 (£323). Pretax profit 1,377 (£1,122). Tax 228 (£237). Minority interests 37 (£94). Earnings from operations 1,112 (£791). Extraordinary debits 60 (debits 110). Profit attributable 1,052 (£681). Eps 11.5p (9.0p). Final dividend 2.4p (2p), making 3.6p (3p). The board proposes to raise about £2.1 million (net) by an underwritten rights issue of 2.69 million new ordinary shares, on a two-for-seven basis, at 83p each. For 1986, the directors expect to be able to recommend at least the maintenance of the 3.6p total dividend.

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	12 1/2%
Adam & Company	11 1/2%
BCCI	11 1/2%
Citibank Savings	12 1/2%
Consolidated Crds	12 1/2%
Continental Trust	11 1/2%
Co-operative Bank	11 1/2%
C. Hoare & Co	11 1/2%
Lloyds Bank	11 1/2%
Nat Westminster	11 1/2%
Royal Bank of Scotland	11 1/2%
TSB	11 1/2%
Citibank NA	11 1/2%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

NatWest Mortgage Rate

With effect from 26th March, 1986 for new borrowers, and from 1st May for existing borrowers, the NatWest Mortgage Rate payable under current Mortgage Deeds and Conditions of Offer will be decreased from 13.00% p.a. to 12.00% p.a.

➤ **National Westminster Home Loans Limited**
414 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP.

Discount house accepts new bid

The surprise bidder for Smith St Anby, the discount house, was revealed yesterday as King and Shaxton, another discount house which already owns 350,000 Smith shares. It has made an offer for the rest under a complex formula.

As a result, the Smith board has withdrawn its recommendation to shareholders to accept a previously announced offer by Irving Trust and to accept the King offer instead. For each Smith share the King offer is an amount in King shares which equals 1.157 times net tangible assets plus 6p, subject to a maximum of 69.42p.

If the asset value exceeds 54p that excess will, to the extent permitted by law, be distributed through a special dividend to the existing Smith shareholders on the offer becoming unconditional.

The asset value means the net tangible assets attributable to each ordinary share at the

close of business on the day on which the offer becomes or is declared unconditional as to acceptances on the basis of the audited consolidated balance sheet of Smith and its subsidiaries.

THE RIVAL OFFERS			
King & Shaxton offer	Irving offer	Irving offer	Irving offer
Asset value	at offer	at offer	at offer
44p	50p	57.8p	47p
45p	51p	59.0p	48p
46p	52p	60.2p	49p
47p	53p	61.4p	50p
48p	54p	62.6p	51p
49p	55p	63.8p	52p
50p	56p	64.9p	53p

Assuming a formula asset value of 46p estimated by the board of Smith as being the value last Friday, and assuming full acceptance, the offer will cost £12.8 million and involve the issue of approximately 6.7 million new King shares.

Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank, and John Govett and Co will make a cash offer

of 164p for each new King share.

The cash alternative is worth 3p per Smith share more than the rival offer by Irving Trust. The shares offer is estimated to be worth at least 10.8p per share more.

No offer will be made for any of the 4.2 per cent preference shares, the 9.5 per cent second preference shares or the 7 per cent subordinated unsecured loan stock 1986-91 of Smith.

The King directors intend to recommend a final dividend of not less than 5.75p net for the year to April 30. The acquisition of Smith will increase King's capital base, which King sees as an important advantage in the increasingly competitive discount house markets.

The Bank of England has been consulted about the offer and has indicated that it has no objection to the proposed acquisition of Smith by King.

Beer kits win export award

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Five companies, including a maker of home-brew beer kits and a publisher of English-Arab industrial guides, have won the 1986 export awards for smaller businesses sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board, British Caledonian Airways, Midland Bank and Thomas Cook.

They will share £25,000 cash, plus £5,000 worth of business air travel for each winner, with up to £2,000 in

additional benefits including some for employees.

Brewing Products (UK), which manufactures home wine making and home-brew beer kits at Consett, Co. Durham, has developed exports by appointing distributors in Australia and New Zealand.

The publisher, Beacon Publications of Weston Favell, Northampton, produces industrial guides and directories

for the Middle East, with electronic data bases.

The other winners are Access Engineering, of Pontefract, West Yorkshire, makers of platforms as an alternative to traditional scaffolding; Smith & Telford, of Hawick, in the Scottish borders, manufacturers of cashmere and lambswool knitwear; and Dunkirk Metals, Nottingham, which produces aluminium deoxidants from scrap.

IMI profits soar by £45.1 million

By Claire Doble

IMI, which is bidding for Martonair International, a valve manufacturer, yesterday announced record profits of £57.8 million before tax for the year to December, up from £45.1 million.

Mr Eric Swainson, the outgoing managing director, said he hoped the bid for Martonair would not be referred to the Monopolies Commission, even though the

two companies would account for 20 per cent of the home market for control equipment. The terms of the bid, which are recommended by the Martonair board, value the company at £83 million. Mr Swainson said further acquisitions would follow.

The largest profit increase came from the titanium and copper refining businesses, where profits increased from

£4.5 million to £11.9 million. The company supplies titanium to the aerospace industry and is benefiting from the success of Rolls-Royce.

Cornelius, the drinks dispenser company acquired four years ago, was the only major area to suffer a downturn, with profits falling from £13.0 million to £12.5 million.

Interest payable fell by £1 million.

IN BRIEF

St Ives offer

St Ives has received acceptances for its offer for 93.9 per cent of Richard Clay preference shares. The offer is now wholly unconditional and remains open for acceptances until further notice.

Bullers buy

Bullers, manufacturer of furniture and consumer products, has completed the purchase of Caverswall China Company from the receiver for £150,000.

Factory plan

The Great British T-Shirt Company, a promotional clothing specialist based at Brighton, is planning a £4 million Midlands factory.

Added sugar

The Tokyo Sugar Exchange has granted its first foreign associate memberships to two London-based sugar companies, E D and F Man International and C Czarnikow.

Japanese deal

Philips Lamps, Nippon Chemi-Con Corporation and Nippon Steel Corporation are in the final stage of establishing a joint company in Japan to make ceramic electronic components. Philips will have 40 per cent and the two Japanese companies 30 per cent each.

More stores

Ravenside, part of the Land Securities Group, has added to its retail warehouse portfolio with stores in Dundee, Wolverhampton, Dewsbury and Bristol. The schemes together involve a capital content of about £7.7 million.

Bank moving

The Union Bank of Switzerland and Phillips & Drew, the stockbroker which it is acquiring, will move to phase three of the Broadgate office development at London's Liverpool Street Station at the end of 1987.

SKF

Financial statement, 1985

SKF Group sales for 1985 rose 11 per cent to 19,758 million Swedish kronor. Profit after financial items totalled 1,376 million kronor (1,328 million in 1984).

	Jan-Dec 1985	Jan-Dec 1984
Sales (MSkr)	19,758	17,843
Operating income after depreciation (MSkr)	1,389	1,442
Profit after financial income and expense (MSkr)	1,376	1,328
Capital expenditure (MSkr)	788	727
Average number of employees	44,265	43,869

In Europe, SKF increased its market shares in both bearings and other products, and strengthened its market positions in Latin America and South East Asia. SKF Industries in the USA could not adapt quickly enough to the changing market which hit US bearing producers as a whole.

The steel sector was affected by weakening demand. Cutting tools income, however, improved, and sales were up by 16 per cent. SKF Component Systems sales rose 30 per cent.

Capital expenditure increased to 788 million kronor (727), while inventories as a percentage of the year's turnover decreased to 37 per cent (40).

The SKF Group forecasts a 10 per cent sales rise for 1986. Profit is expected to be about the same as in 1985.

The Board recommends a 3 kronor dividend lift for A and B shares to 10 kronor, the same level as C shares.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 29 April 1986.

Aktiebolaget SKF, S-415 50 Göteborg, Sweden.

Combined English Stores Group plc

Profits Growth Continues

Combined English Stores has again shown major profits growth in all divisions. This year's record results reflect the success of the groups strategy and the potential for continuing growth

"The last year has been important in the development of the Group. We have achieved excellent results with turnover increasing by 17%, profit before tax by 34% and earnings per share have risen by 27%.

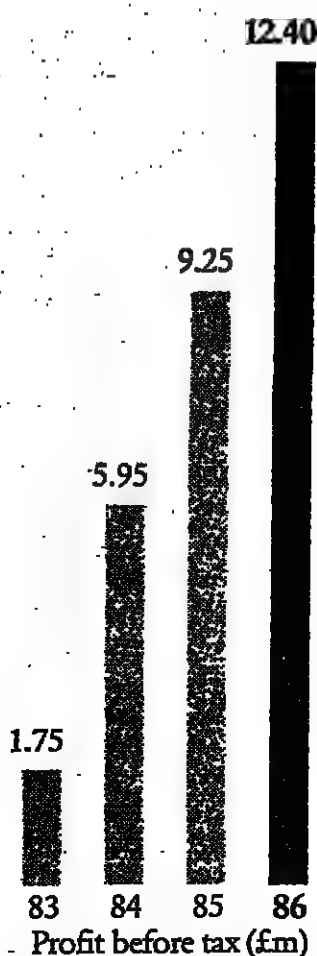
The results of the last three years, the strong balance sheet, low gearing and continued improvement in the quality of earnings is all the result of careful planning instigated by the management team. It is significant that in January 1983 our market capitalisation was no more than £15m. Today it exceeds £125m."

Murray Gordon
Chairman

Summary of Results

For the 52 weeks ended 25 January 1986 - unaudited

	1986 £m	1985 £m
Turnover	142.76	121.91
Profit before tax	12.40	9.25
Earnings per share	13.09p	10.34p
Dividends for the year (net)	6.71p	4.90p

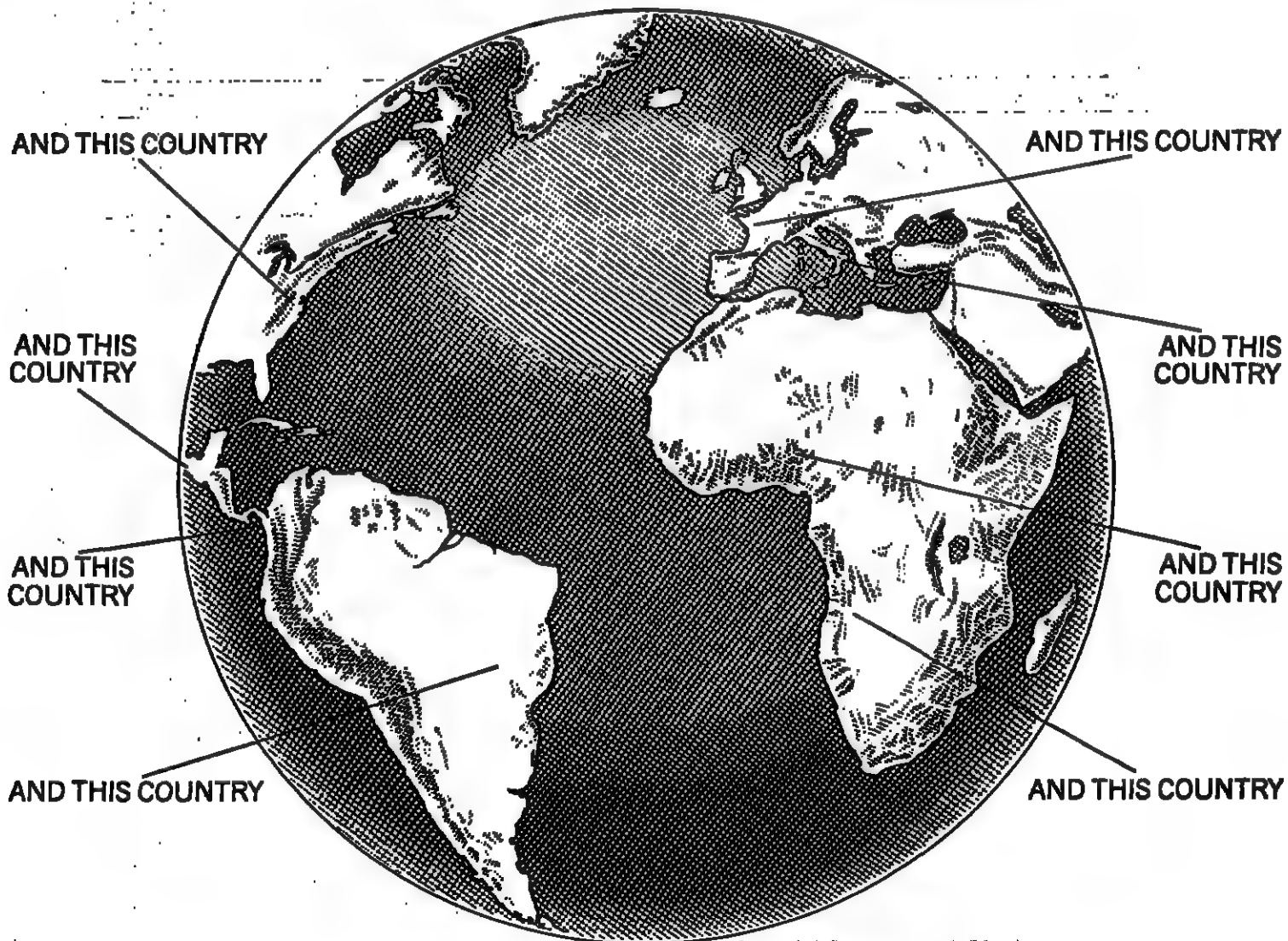


If you would like a copy of the 1986 Annual Report, please apply to:
The Company Secretary,
Combined English Stores Group plc,
1-6 Clay Street, London W1H 3FS.
Telephone 01-486 3331

Principal subsidiary companies: Salisbury Handbags, Collingwoods the Country Jewellers, Allen Chemists, Bala Fashion Group (West Germany), Eurocamp Holidays.

Combined
English
Stores
Group plc

In this country, we're well known for our distribution services to major organisations.



Ocean has always been an international organisation.

We began life a century ago as a shipping line, pioneering major trade routes to the Far East and Australia, and swiftly built a reputation for going further than any of our competitors, in terms of service as well as nautical miles.

Today, as well as shipping, we operate in areas such as freight forwarding, offshore oil support and warehousing.

But the legacy of our early days remains clearly visible. As much as ever, our success is based on quality of service.

And as much as ever, it is based on doing business all over the world; on offering the right service, in the right place, at the right time.

Which is why our cargo shipping activities are now concentrated in key areas such as the UK/West Africa trade route.

And why we have moved into businesses such as ship towage and offshore oil support. Cory Towage is

one of the world's largest towage companies, operating as far afield as Canada, Angola and Colombia. And O.I.L., our offshore oil support company, is probably the most profitable British company of its kind, serving the oil industry in West Africa, America and the Middle East as well as in the North Sea.

On land and in the air, our international presence has grown along with our specialised warehousing and freight forwarding operations.

McGregor Cory Warehousing now has over three million square feet spread strategically throughout Europe. And MSAS is among the top ten freight forwarders in the world.

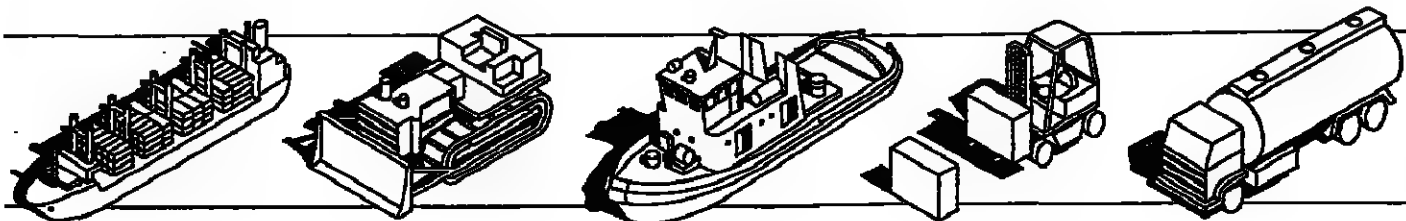
In all, we have 7500 staff, in over forty businesses, in twenty-eight countries around the world.

Facts which are extremely important.

Variety, after all, is not only the spice of life.

It's also the source of strength and stability.

OCEAN
We can handle it.



OCEAN TRANSPORT & TRADING plc, 47 RUSSELL SQUARE, LONDON WC1B 4JP.

New Woolwich Interest Rates

from 1st April 1986
Investment Rates

SHARE ACCOUNTS	6.00% = 8.45%
CASHBASE ACCOUNTS	6.50% = 9.15%
PRIME ACCOUNTS	8.00% = 11.27%
	8.25% = 11.62%
	8.50% = 11.97%
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	8.52% = 12.00%

The rate of interest on all other personal accounts will be decreased by 1.0% from 1st April 1986. These new rates give Woolwich savers and investors an excellent choice. There is no limit to the amount you can have invested.

Mortgage Rates

12.00%	8.52%
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For Woolwich borrowers with account numbers beginning 91, 94 and 96, the interest charged on mortgages for the purchase or improvement of owner occupied residential property will be reduced to 12% from 1st April 1986; for other mortgages the same rate of 12% will apply from 1st May 1986.

The normal effect of this reduction will be to shorten the term of repayment mortgages. However, if your present monthly payment is based on at least a 12.75% interest rate, payments can be reduced on application to your local branch. If you have an endowment mortgage, we will be writing to you with details of revised monthly payments within the next week or so. Where an offer of a mortgage was made before 22nd March 1986 but has not been completed the interest rate quoted will be reduced to 12% with effect from 1st April 1986. In the case of offers made for further advances, the decreased rate will apply from the date on which the principal mortgage rate changes. The amount of the revised monthly payment will be notified following completion or can be obtained from your branch.



Chief Officer: Equitable House, London SE18 6AB

Checkout cash retreats before plastic Darts

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Electronic bill processing on the biggest scale so far seen in Britain was launched at Brent Cross shopping centre in north London yesterday with a system developed by Barclaycard, the credit card subsidiary of Barclays Bank. Mr Peter Ellwood, Barclaycard's chief executive, called the new system "potentially the most significant step yet on the road to the cashless society".

So far 22 Brent Cross retailers have agreed to use the new system, called Darts, with a further 30 likely to start using it soon. Among others joining the scheme is Alders at the duty-free outlets in Heathrow Airport's new Terminal Four, where there are expected to be 54 terminals.

The terminals read plastic cards, allowing a bill to be printed out and providing overnight payment for the retailer - who also gains by not having to deal with the paperwork now needed on card transactions. The system is said to be more secure and error free.

Compared with credit card transactions, which take 45 seconds on average, the new system should mean a customer need be detained for only 25 seconds, it is claimed. The average shop transaction employing cash takes about 11 seconds with a further eight seconds if change is needed, it is calculated.

Hickson International was hit by currency devaluations and severe competition in the chemicals industry in 1985, the company says. Pretax profit was down from £14.96 million to £13.12 million. But the final dividend was maintained at 10p, making a total of 15p against 14p in 1984.

Hickson says demand has shown an improvement in 1986 and the lower price of oil is expected to mean better margins.

The increased strength of the mark should reverse the downward trend in export prices of chemicals in the

second half of 1985. There is some evidence of increased building activity in Britain which should eventually boost timber protection sales.

The board says the three principal negative factors which affected group performance were: local currency devaluations, which reduced the sterling value of profit in South Africa, New Zealand and Australia by about £800,000; severe competition in the chemicals industry, coupled with dull market conditions, which largely removed the ability to raise selling prices in

order to recover British cost increases; and recession in the building industry coupled with adverse publicity about timber-frame houses which reduced the volume of sales of timber protection products at home. Chemical sales were strong in the first half of 1985, but there was a sharp decline in the last four months leading to a reduction in pretax profit for the sector from £7 million to £6.7 million.

Domestic business failed to show its normal recovery after the summer holidays and exports were affected by the strength of sterling.

Chemicals fear skill shortage

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

The chemical industry is facing a shortage of skilled manpower while university places for the design and process engineers it needs are unfilled, the Chemical Industry Association said yesterday.

"The industry is failing to attract young people," Mr Martin Trowbridge, according to the association's director-general. The association in its annual survey of members' investment intentions says that after a rise in 1985 the rise in new capital spending by the industry is expected to reach nearly £1.5 billion this year.

In the three years to the end of 1988 the industry plans to spend £4.4 billion on new plant, modernization and measures to save energy and protect the environment. Although still below the investment peak of 1977-79 spending plans are more than 17 per cent higher than in the previous three-year period.

Mr Trowbridge said: "This year's investment intentions programme will continue to support the industry's rationalization and cost saving measures."

"If achieved it will maintain the UK's increased share of EEC capital spending."

"Part of the reason for the strength of the upturn in investment in 1985 and spill over into 1986 has been the acceleration in spending due to changes in Government regional policies and tax legislation."

No VAT credit claim on non-taxable inputs

Commissioners of Customs and Excise v Apple and Pear Development Council
Before Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Roskill, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Brightman and Lord Griffiths

(Speeches given March 20) A taxable person (within the meaning of the value-added tax legislation) who supplies tax-exempt services that did not attract output tax (because such services were provided without consideration), and in part of the supply of goods and services for tax paid on inputs which were connected with the taxpayer's non-taxable activities.

The House of Lords so held on the appeal of Apple and Pear Development Council against a decision to that effect by the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Lawton, Lord Justice Fox and Lord Justice Kerr) (The Times April 10, 1985; [1985] STC 383).

Mr Andrew Park, QC, for the council, Mr John Laws and Mr Robert Jay for the commissioners.

LORD BRIGHTMAN said that in 1981 the commissioners ruled that the council's general activities (those funded by compulsory charges) did not constitute a "business" for value-added tax purposes, with the result that the council could not take credit for input tax on supplies to them relating to such activities.

On appeal from the value-added tax tribunal's finding that the council did carry on a business, the commissioners argued in the Divisional Court that the general activities of the

council were not performed for a consideration and therefore, so far as those activities were concerned, the services of the council were not "supplies" within the meaning of the legislation.

To constitute a "business" the activity had to include the making of taxable supplies; therefore the input tax paid by the council had to be apportioned. That submission was upheld.

In the Court of Appeal, Lord Justice Fox said: "If an activity neither makes nor is intended to make taxable supplies, I do not think that the draftsman of the Finance Act 1972 can have contemplated that it was a 'business' for the purposes of section 4".

The Divisional Court and the Court of Appeal reached the correct conclusion. The scheme of the legislation was plain. If the business activities of the taxpayer were such that all the supplies which he made were subject to output tax (whether positive rated or zero rated) he recovered all the tax which he paid on the inputs of that business (see sections 3(3) and 4(1)(a) of the 1972 Act).

If all the supplies which he made were exempt supplies, he could recover none and the probability was that he would not even be registered.

If the supplies which he made were partly taxable supplies and partly exempt supplies there was to be an apportionment of the tax and that which was attributable to exempt supplies was not recoverable.

His Lordship asked himself, how, against that background, one could rationally come to the conclusion that if the business activities of the taxpayer were such that some supplies were taxable supplies and some were not, the whole of the input tax was recoverable.

The matter was put beyond argument by the Sixth European Economic Community Council Directive on the harmonization of the laws of member states relating to turnover taxes (67/227/EEC).

Input tax was not deductible except so far as the goods or services upon which the tax had been levied were for the purposes of the taxpayer's taxable transactions.

The Finance Act 1977 rewrote sections 2 to 6 of the 1972 Act in order to give effect to the Sixth Directive. A court was therefore required to construe the 1972 Act, as amended, in the light of that directive.

The House had considered the council on the hypothesis that the payment of charges imposed compulsorily on growers did not amount to consideration for the services rendered by the council in pursuance of their general activities.

In truth, the first question which ought to be asked was whether or not such charges were consideration. Only if the answer to that question was in the negative did the point so far considered arise.

The Court of Appeal took the view that "consideration" in section 6(2) of the 1972 Act bore its ordinary technical meaning in English law. His Lordship felt less confident.

In the absence of any clear case law of the Court of the European Communities which was decisive of the matter, it was appropriate for the House to refer to the European Court the question whether the exercise of the council's functions and the imposition on growers of an annual charge to enable the council to exercise such functions was the supply of services effected for consideration within the meaning of article 2 of the Sixth Directive.

It would be for their Lordships to decide, in the light of that answer, whether the payment of such annual charges by the growers was consideration within the meaning of the 1972 Act for the supply of services by the council.

Lord Keith, Lord Roskill, Lord Brandon and Lord Griffiths agreed.

Solicitors: Park Nelson & Doyle Devoe, for Buss Stone & Co, Farnbridge Wells; Customs and Excise Solicitor.

Ill health can frustrate contract of employment

Notcutt v Universal Equipment Co (London) Ltd
Before Lord Justice Dillon and Mr Justice Sheppard
[Judgment given March 14]

Mr Howard County Court that the defendant's, Universal Equipment Co (London) Ltd, were not liable to pay wages to him during the period of his notice.

Mr R.G.B. Allen for the plaintiff, Mr Andrew Hillier for the defendants. LORD JUSTICE DILLON said that the appeal was the first case where the Court of Appeal had been required to consider the application of the doctrine of frustration to a periodic contract of employment, which was determinable by short or relatively short notice where the contract was said to have been frustrated by the illness or incapacity of the employee.

The plaintiff became employed by the defendants in 1957. His wages were at an hourly rate. Subject to statute his employment was originally terminable by a week's notice, and it was a term of his contract that no remuneration would be paid for absence from work due to sickness or incapacity.

However certain further terms were incorporated into his contract by statute under the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978. Under section 49 the notice required to terminate his contract had to be not less than 12 weeks.

Paragraph 3 of Schedule 3 to that Act obliged the defendants to pay the plaintiff at the average hourly rate in so far as during the period of his notice he was incapable of work because of sickness or injury.

The plaintiff had a coronary in 1983 when he was nearly 63 years old. Thereafter he was off work and in July 1984 the plaintiff's doctor wrote in a letter to the defendants that he doubted whether he would ever work again.

The plaintiff himself said that he knew that he could not go to work. Thus the defendants gave the plaintiff notice to terminate his employment.

The plaintiff now claimed entitlement to sick pay under paragraph 3 of Schedule 3 while absent from work during the period of his notice.

The defendants contended, inter alia, that the contract of employment had been frustrated by the plaintiff's illness before the purported notice of termination.

It was impossible to discern from the Act why Parliament should have required an employer to pay sick pay to an employee who was off work because of sickness while under notice, although the employer was under no such obligation while the employee was not under notice. However it was clear that the Act did impose such an obligation.

Counsel both agreed that if the plaintiff's contract was terminated by the notice that he was entitled to the money claimed. Conversely, they agreed that if the plaintiff's contract had been frustrated before the notice was given then that notice was of no effect and the plaintiff's claim could not succeed.

The plaintiff argued that the doctrine of frustration could have no application to a periodic contract of employment because there was no need for it - the contract could always be terminated by short notice. Further he said that there was no frustration as absence from work was envisaged by the contract and by paragraph 3.

Notwithstanding the views of Mr Justice Bristow in *Harman v Flexible Lamps Ltd* ([1980] IRLR 413), there were cases in the National Industrial Relations Court and the Employment Appeal Tribunal where it was held that contracts of employment terminable by relatively short notice were capable of being terminated without

notice by frustration as a result of an employee's illness. And in *Harman v Flexible Lamps Ltd* ([1974] 3 All ER 940) Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, held that a contract of employment was frustrated when the man was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment.

There was no reason in principle why such a periodic contract of employment should not be frustrated in circumstances he held to have been terminated without notice by frustration according to the accepted and long established doctrine of frustration in the law of contract.

The mere fact that the contract could be terminated by the employer by relatively short notice could not of itself render the doctrine of frustration inapplicable.

The principles governing the doctrine were conveniently to be found in the speeches of Lord Reid and Lord Radcliffe in *Davies Contractors Ltd v Fareham Urban District Council* ([1956] AC 696, 721, 728).

The plaintiff's contract provided that the defendants were not bound to pay him while he was absent due to illness or injury. That reference to injury did not cover an injury which totally disabled him from working in such a case the injury would have caused his contract to be frustrated.

Again if sickness was considered rather than injury, the result would be the same. Here both parties appreciated that the plaintiff would not work again.

He was totally incapacitated from performing the contract. The coronary was an expected occurrence which made his performance of his contractual obligation to work impossible and brought about such a change in the significance of the mutual obligations that the contract was frustrated.

It would be a different thing from that contracted for. Both the judge's approach and conclusion had been correct.

Mr Justice Sheppard delivered a concurring judgment. Solicitors: Mr Simon Tonelli, Hounslow; Roebuck & Co, Harington.

Subjective test for 'reliable device'

Thompson v Thynne
Before Lord Justice Woolf and Mr Justice Webster
[Judgment given March 18]

The words "reliable device" in section 8(3)(b) of the Road Traffic Act 1972, as substituted in Schedule 8 of the Transport Act 1981, should be construed subjectively or objectively.

Mr John Milford for the defendant, Mr Guy Mansfield for the prosecutor. MR JUSTICE WEBSTER said that he found it impossible to disregard the fact that the scheme of section 3 necessarily involved the making of a series of decisions by the officer in question.

The express provisions of paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (3) had the effect that the officer's decision was made to depend upon what he "had reasonable cause to believe" or "had been advised", and there

seemed no reason in principle why the partially subjective element which was expressly present in paragraphs (a) and (c) should be absent in paragraph (b).

The word "reliable" was a word which implied a subject, that is to say someone who relied or could rely upon the device, or someone to whom the device was not reliable.

For those reasons, the words "reliable device" were to be given the meaning "a device which the officer reasonably believed to be reliable" and in consequence the defendant's appeal to the crown court was rightly dismissed.

Lord Justice Woolf agreed. Solicitors: Row & Scott, Newcastle upon Tyne; Mr D. E. Brown, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Branch funds belong to the union

News Group Newspapers Ltd and Others v Sogat
Funds raised by contributions from members of a local union branch and retained by the branch for local purposes fell to be considered as part of Sogat funds in proceedings for sequestration, since the branch, as an unincorporated association, was in law not entitled to own property.

Mr Justice Taylor so held in the Queen's Bench Division on March 4 in dismissing an application by the London branch of clerical, admin-

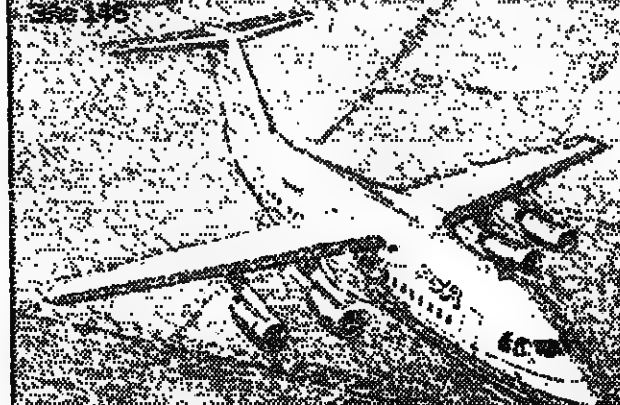
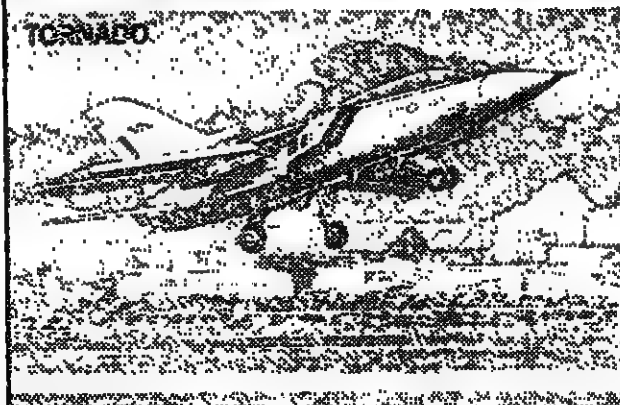
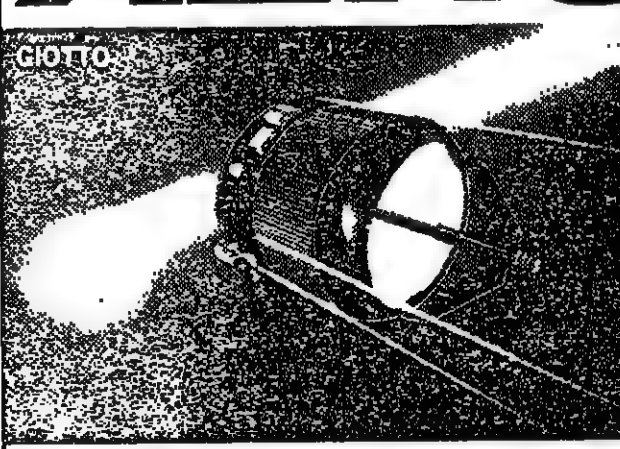
istrative and executive personnel of Sogat 82 and the syndication international clerical chapel for directions in proceedings pursuant to an order of Mr Justice Michael Davies on February 10, 1986 giving leave for a writ of sequestration to be issued by the plaintiffs, News Group Newspapers Ltd against the defendants, Sogat 82.

MR JUSTICE TAYLOR said that nothing in section 2 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974 required that

control and administration of the property of the union should be in the hands of the same trustees as those in whom the property was vested.

There was a distinction to be drawn between the nature of the relationship between the trustees and members of a social club, which was upon a contractual basis, and the instant case. The funds administered by the branch and the chapel were the property of Sogat and accordingly came within the ambit of the sequestration proceedings.

BRITISH AEROSPACE



1985 "A significant year for British Aerospace"

Results for 1985	1985	1984
Turnover	£2,648	£2,468
Trading profit	180	166
Launching costs written off	(52)	(51)
Net interest receivable	19	4
Profit before taxation	150	120
Profit after taxation	127	108
Earnings per share (net basis)	56.4p	53.5p
Dividends per share (net)	15.8p	13.65p

†Extract from preliminary announcement of results for 1985 based on audited accounts for the year to 31st December 1985.

Sales at £2,648 million increased by 7.3% over the previous year's figure of £2,468 million. Exports accounted for 61% of total sales. The outstanding order book at the end of 1985 was valued at £5,138 million* as compared with £4,820 million at the end of 1984. Trading profit at £180.1 million shows an increase of 8.4% over the 1984 figure of £166.2 million. Profit before taxation at £150.5 million represents an increase of 25.2% over the 1984 profit of £120.2 million. The Board has proposed a final dividend of 10.0p per share. This will bring the total dividends paid for 1985 to 15.8p per share - an increase of 15.8% over 1984.

*EXCLUDING ORDERS FROM THE RECENTRAL IN-SERVICE

Sir Austin Pearce, Chairman

BRITISH AEROSPACE

...up where we belong

British Aerospace Public Limited Company, 100 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5HR.

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United Biscuits' best and final bid values your Imperial shares at 335.3p.	Hanson Trust's best and final bid values your Imperial shares at 362.9p.
United Biscuits' earnings per share have grown by 9.2% p.a. over the last 5 years.	Hanson Trust's earnings per share have grown by 33.9% p.a. over the last 5 years.
United Biscuits' shareholders have, over the last 5 years, seen their dividends grow by 13.2% p.a.	Hanson Trust shareholders have, over the last 5 years, seen their dividends grow by 28.7% p.a.

A few facts for every Imperial shareholder caught in the middle of the current takeover battle.

United Biscuits gives you the option of taking well under half their offer in cash.	Hanson Trust gives you the option of a 100% cash alternative.
United Biscuits would be buying a company 2½ times its own size.	Hanson Trust would be buying a company smaller than itself.
£1,000 invested in United Biscuits in 1980 would now be worth £3,100.	£1,000 invested in Hanson Trust in 1980 would now be worth £13,300.

Having read both sides of the argument we think you will see why we find it hard to believe that the Imperial board does not, in your interests, favour the Hanson Trust offer. We recommend you accept it.

H A N S O N T R U S T

CONTINUING GROWTH FROM BASIC BUSINESSES.

The values of Hanson Trust's and United Biscuits' offers depend on their respective share prices. The above offer values are for Hanson Trust's Share and Convertible Stock Election and United Biscuits' Offer based on the market prices at 3.30 p.m. on March 25, 1986. The Offer values take account of estimates by Hoare Govett Limited of the values, at the relevant ordinary share prices, of the 10 per cent. convertible loan stock of Hanson and the convertible preferred shares of United Biscuits. The capital comparison is based on information supplied by DataStream and assumes £1,000 net of expenses had been invested in each case adjusted for subsequent rights issues (assuming no new net investment) and capitalisation issues.

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

HOTELS £10,500 Head of the hotel, efficient, experienced, to look after the MD, to run the hotel, to manage the staff, to meet and greet clients, to ensure the hotel is a success. Great perks & bonuses. CITY: 01-481 2345 WEST END: 01-938 2188 abbatt	ADMIN ASSIST £9,000 World of opportunity. Top up to £10,000. To look after the MD, to run the hotel, to manage the staff, to meet and greet clients, to ensure the hotel is a success. Great perks & bonuses. CITY: 01-481 2345 WEST END: 01-938 2188 abbatt	TRADING PLACES £9,500 The top 50% needed for trading places. To look after the MD, to run the hotel, to manage the staff, to meet and greet clients, to ensure the hotel is a success. Great perks & bonuses. CITY: 01-481 2345 WEST END: 01-938 2188 abbatt	CALIBRE 22+ £12,000 Incredible opportunity for bright young at secondary to join the elite in the dynamic world of the City. To look after the MD, to run the hotel, to manage the staff, to meet and greet clients, to ensure the hotel is a success. Great perks & bonuses. CITY: 01-481 2345 WEST END: 01-938 2188 abbatt	CITY SLICKER £10,500 A top PA job for well-organised efficient & energetic person with good education to work in the Corporate Office of this Financial Services Company. To look after the MD, to run the hotel, to manage the staff, to meet and greet clients, to ensure the hotel is a success. Great perks & bonuses. CITY: 01-481 2345 WEST END: 01-938 2188 abbatt	MARKETING 24+ £10,000 A top PA job for well-organised efficient & energetic person with good education to work in the Corporate Office of this Financial Services Company. To look after the MD, to run the hotel, to manage the staff, to meet and greet clients, to ensure the hotel is a success. Great perks & bonuses. CITY: 01-481 2345 WEST END: 01-938 2188 abbatt	ESTABLISHED ART GALLERY KENSINGTON Efficient, intelligent admin/sales assistant required for typing, filing, bookkeeping, research and customer handling. Hours: Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 6pm. Start £9,000 pa. Tel: 01-352 3095.
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 and ask for David Bennett or Nigel Lyndon.

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AGE 23-25
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We're a successful 3 year old, 6 person strong marketing consultancy in Smithfield working in light, modern, open plan offices. We're looking for a second secretary to join us, probably in her early 20's, educated to at least 'A' level, with no less than 60 wpm on an IBM word processor and 100 wpm shorthand. Salary negotiable dependent upon experience or skills. If you're interested write to David Drakes at Box E48 telling us why you fit the bill.

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 Small busy W1 office requires fast accurate typing and broad-based Wordstar experience. Non smoker and must of business casual. Salary £2,000. Please send cv to: Lynn Wilson, 8 Wimpole St, London W1M 1LP. 01-631 4210.

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The Arts Council's South Bank Board is seeking to appoint a Secretary to the Executive Chairman to work with his present Senior Personal Secretary. The position calls for first class shorthand and typing qualifications (minimum speeds 100/50), a willingness to be trained in word processing, if not already proficient, and involves all associated secretarial skills. Applicants should have a pleasant telephone manner, be able to work under pressure and be used to high standards of accuracy. The post would offer a young person invaluable experience at high level as a useful second step in a career. Starting salary circa £7,500, subject to review after trial period. Please telephone for an application form 01-431 0364, or write to the South Bank Board, 105 Piccadilly, London W1V 0AU. Closing date for receipt of completed forms: 8th April 1986.

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Rescued from decay, thanks to Prince Charles: 18th-century Henbury House at Wimborne, Dorset

A revival at the mansion

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

The Prince of Wales' interest in housing and architecture and the preservation of the environment is well known, with his comments on a certain "carbuncle" proposed for Trafalgar Square easily qualifying for a quotation of the year. He will therefore be pleased to know that his address to the Institute of Directors a year ago on Britain's heritage struck a chord with at least one member of the audience which has resulted in the saving of a fine Georgian mansion which had fallen on unhappy times.

Henbury House, a Wimborne near Bournemouth, was built around 1730 for the Earls of Shaftesbury and is the main house for a 300-acre estate. It is a Grade II listed house which has been extensively renovated and has many planning permissions for its future development, but in recent years it was occupied by a lady who lived in one room at a time until it became uninhabitable, a squatter occupied another part.

In January 1985, businessman Roy Baylis and his brother Guy bought Henbury for £226,000 after it had failed to attract a bid at an earlier auction when the reserve was something over £300,000. They saw an opportunity to revive the house and with it bring life to a small corner of Dorset, but had an open mind about its future. When Prince Charles in his speech challenged directors to "revive and regenerate decaying assets wherever possible", the Baylis brothers were inspired to take the risks and press on.

So far they have spent about £100,000 planning the revival, including £30,000 on architects' fees, and believe that a further £150,000 needs to be spent on the house, with £50,000 on landscaping. Given estimates of £5,500 for the repointing a chimney, they realize the costs involved and are looking either to sell Henbury or to find partners to help them complete the project.

Their plan, approved by the local authority, is to build 39 cottages to replace old outbuildings and for a leisure

Plan for 39 cottages and a leisure complex

complex to adjoin the house, which is set in grounds of 12 acres. It may seem an odd development for a fine estate, but in many cases it is the only way in which such buildings can be saved, and the plan was approved by 13 votes to 2, with one member of the planning committee commenting that approval was "the best way to protect the Green Belt and that is what we are here to do".

Altogether the project will cost £1.5 million, which the owners point out will be money invested locally, will revive the house, will bring a new, year-round amenity and will create 50 permanent full-time jobs. The scheme is designed by Peter Luck and Associates and there is an option to purchase a further 55 acres. Saville and Fox and Sons are joint selling agents and are asking for offers in the region of £500,000 to £1 million, a range reflecting the difficulty in valuing such an unusual property. The idea is that the house would become a country club with leisure facilities, while the cottages and house would be sold to the second home market or retained for self-catering. Time-sharing is another possibility.

Henbury House is the latest example of the difficulties facing the owners of fine old houses and of the ways in which they can be saved.

Fox and Sons' country house department have other such properties on the market. The Grange, at West Charlton, Kingsbury, South Devon, is a spacious former rectory built in the 18th century and now divided into four units, with three holiday cottages and permission for a fourth, standing in nine acres near the Kingsbridge estuary. The asking price is around £250,000.

On a smaller scale is Lower Southbrook farm, at Whimpey, Exeter, a charming 200-year-old former farmhouse suitable for bed and breakfast trade, and with additional income from three holiday bungalows, standing in about four acres. Offers over £125,000 are asked.

20. No price has been given for this going concern.

In conjunction with Smith & Parker, Humberts are also selling Bainsdale Hall, in Oakham, Rutland, a Grade II listed house dating from 1890, which was built as a hunting lodge for Earl Fitzwilliam's family, when regular visitors included the Prince of Wales, later Edward VII. The property has recently been granted outline planning permission for change of use to an hotel and conference centre.

The accommodation includes four reception rooms, six bedrooms, two staff flats, two attic bedrooms and cellars, set in nearly nine acres, with a further 44 acres available. In addition there is a coach house suitable for conversion, and the agents are expecting offers over £650,000.

It may seem to some people that fine houses of varying shapes and sizes lose their role as family houses and become hotels, holiday centres and such like, but at least they survive and are again living parts of the country's heritage.

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M Peel (Long University and Downing,
St 2u); P H Broughle (Kaiser College,
Southampton University and Mexico),
1st 11lb; E A F Gibson (Queen's
Academy, Ontario and Churchill), 1st
and 2u; J H Prichard (St Clement Dames
College, York, school), 1st 16st;
J H Black, school, 1st 16st; C A Burzio
(St Michaels College, Hamilton), cor, 9st
9lb.



A spray of Dark Blue: Oxford in practice for the Boat Race on the Tideway yesterday. Their afternoon outing produced an easy win over the Thames eight (Photograph: Tommy Hindley). Boat Race news, page 30

England's reputation on the line

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Bridgetown

West Indies duly won the third Test match, sponsored by Cable & Wireless, by an innings and 30 runs here yesterday, their eighth overwhelming victory in a row against England. That England's last four wickets lasted until just before lunch, and kept their many loyal supporters out of the sea until the afternoon, was because of some light rain and a determined little partnership between Dowdall and Emburey. "But there is still," said Tony Brown, the England manager, "an awful lot to play for — and we can still yet square the one-day series."

As in Trinidad during the second Test match, no play would have been possible on the rest day here because of rain. Though still overcast yesterday it was mostly dry. By the time of the first short

stoppage, after 20 minutes, Emburey had been leg before to Garner, moving into his stumps to try and hit a full length ball to leg. Before the next even briefer interruption Dowdall and Emburey added 35 with just enough certainty to make England, and especially Botham, rue all the more that dismal batting in the last hour of Sunday.

With victory assured the West Indians, if not consciously taking things easily, looked a little languid. When Marshall and Garner, who bowled the first 16 overs together, produced anything special, Dowdall and Emburey played and missed. Mostly, though, they batted very decently, putting on 50 for the eighth wicket before Holding replaced Garner.

At once Holding had Dowdall well caught at the wicket off a nasty lifting outswinger, and Foster, second ball, taken high up at second slip. Ten minutes later,

with just over 10 hours of the match left, West Indies had won and retained the Wisden Trophy, the last word being as conclusive as the margin of their victory, the cartwheeling removal of Thomas's middle stump.

Only once before has one country lost eight successive Test matches to another. That was when Australia, having made a clean sweep of their series against England in Australia in 1920-21, won the first three Tests of 1921 in England. England stopped the rot by drawing the fourth Test at Old Trafford, having been beaten eight times in seven months.

If the Great War, and the dreadful losses and deprivation which came with it, were the main cause of England's slow rehabilitation then, the reason now is just as clear cut. If the fast bowlers of the two sides, in England in 1984 and out here this winter, had changed sides, the results

would have been reversed. They might have been less conclusive, but England would undoubtedly have won.

Over the course of recent history a pair of top-class fast bowlers (let alone four of them, bowling as short as they please, when it suits them, and with more than 700 Test wickets between them) have invariably been enough to win a Test series. Gregory and McDonald, Larwood and Voce, Miller and Lindwall, Trueman and Statham, Tyson and Statham, Lillee and Thomson, Procter and Pollock, Hall and Griffith... the list is very long.

The time comes when the side without the fast bowling starts to give of nothing like its best. On the present tour this happened straightaway when the first Test match was played on a dangerous pitch in Kingston. Since then England have not had the confidence to take the chances offered them. The break of six days be-

tween the Test just finished and the fourth and final one-day international to be played in Trinidad next Monday, was planned originally to allow the England team a well-deserved rest. In the event they have their wounds to lick. But whether Brown and the vice-captain, Gatting, one as the manager and the other because he has the personality required, can do it, is another matter.

Gatting's absence from the first three Tests has been a heavy blow, but it is not long ago that he had to look to this column to find a champion. It would be expecting an awful lot of him now, particularly after his two recent injuries, to come in and make the difference. But at least his qualities are being widely recognized.

"We have obviously missed Mike greatly," says Peter May. "He is such a good influence on and off the field and a help to David." "Mike," says Brown, "is a real fighter."

There is little wrong in my opinion with the attitude of the others, but Gatting's determination comes through.

As chairman of the England selectors and a spectator here in Bridgetown, May has conveyed to Messrs Brown, Willis and Gower that the next two Test matches must be seen as vital, not only for England's cricketing name but for each player in the context of the next 12 months. "The players must grit their teeth and fight," he says. He wonders, I think, how whole-hearted one or two of them have been and says that no-one on the side, from the senior to the most junior, can take for granted a place in the England side this coming summer.

"It would be more disappointing than in 1984 to go down now by a similar margin, because we are a better side," says Gower, referring to the "blackwash" which Lloyd's team administered that year. No side has ever lost

all five Tests in a series out here, not even since West Indies took to playing four Test bowlers. Though outplayed, New Zealand drew two (out of four) last year, Australia two in 1983-84 and India three in 1982-83. All three probably had better pitches to play on, but they must also have made more of their collective ability.

WEST INDIES: First innings 448 (B B Richards 100, S L Hayden 84, V V A Richards 51, J G Thomas 4 for 70). ENGLAND: First innings 189 (G A Gough 52, D L Gower 46, B J Hirst 4 for 42, B F Patterson 3 for 56).

Second innings 171 (G A Gough 67, B F Patterson 42, D L Gower 4 for 70, V V A Richards 51, J G Thomas 4 for 70). ENGLAND: Second innings 189 (G A Gough 52, D L Gower 46, B J Hirst 4 for 42, B F Patterson 3 for 56).

Third Test: First innings 151 (D L Gower 46, B J Hirst 4 for 42, B F Patterson 3 for 56). ENGLAND: First innings 189 (G A Gough 52, D L Gower 46, B J Hirst 4 for 42, B F Patterson 3 for 56).

CRICKET

Wessels finds himself left out in the cold

From Paul Martin, Johannesburg

A cold shoulder awaits South African cricket's prodigal son, Kepler Wessels, who is returning to the country of his birth from his adopted Australia amidst fierce controversy. Though he will be eagerly welcomed in Currie Cup provincial cricket, he will be excluded from either rebel international team in next season's repeat Australian-Springbok "Test" series.

Kim Hughes, the Australian rebel captain, says Wessels had "made his bed in the official Test camp and that's where he

must lie. Hughes contends that Wessels had been helping recruit Australian players for the rebel tour during the World Cup competition in England — only to renege at the last moment. Wessels, ironically, has now burnt his boats with Australian Test cricket, piqued at not having been offered the most lucrative type of contract.

Nor is Wessels to be included in the Springbok team. "He cannot change horses mid-stream," said Dr Ali Bacher, South Africa's chief rebel tour organizer.

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HANDBALL

No escape route for Stafford

By Paul Harrison

The unexpected success of the handballing inmates of Stafford Prison has ruined a showpiece cup final. The M & B Midlands Cup final was due to be played on May 14 at the Granby Halls in Leicester, but since Stafford Olympic are not allowed to play away matches — for obvious reasons — that match is now off.

The Midlands Handball Association plan instead to stage a challenge match on that date at Granby Halls, between the other finalists, Olympia Cannock and Leicester 73, who were beaten 14-10 by Stafford Olympic at the prison on Sunday.

It is hoped that the real final can be played on May 18, at a sports hall near the prison. Negotiations are going on between prison and MHA officials to that end.

The MHA are against playing the final in the prison, not least because the sloping pitch gives a considerable advantage to the home side. The problem for the prison authorities is to find enough players who would be allowed out to play: a final in which Stafford could only field a few regulars could soon degenerate into farce.

As it was, on Sunday some of Stafford's players had never played before. Stafford ended the season midway in the Midlands League while Leicester reached the last four of the play-offs for the British championship.

Ian Harris, the Leicester secretary, has no doubt they were affected by the surroundings. "It is such an unusual arena," he said. "The whole environment got the better of the team. They were frightened to die around on the tarmac court and also I feel they were slightly intimidated at having to play against prisoners. Perhaps they were a bit frightened to go in hard for fear of being hit back."

"Pop," Popovic, the secretary of Olympia Cannock, says his team will not play the final at the prison. "A lot of our players are under 18 and, in any case, prison rules would drastically cut down the number of supporters allowed in. The whole event would be devalued."

Stafford play on the league's only outdoor court. Three sides of it are overshadowed by Victorian prison blocks, while space is so short at the prison that the goals are stored against the walls of the old execution chamber.

BOXING: FORMER WORLD LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION TURNS ANALYST

Conteh to lend support to Andries

By Srikanth Sen, Boxing Correspondent

John Conteh has been called in to help Dennis Andries, the British light-heavyweight champion, prepare for his world title bout against J B Williamson, of the United States, on April 30, at Picketts Lock, Edmondston, London. But the former world light-heavyweight champion will not be putting on gloves and getting into the ring for sparring at The Thomas A'Beckett gym. His job will be to analyse Williamson's style and instil self-belief in the 33-year-old Andries for when the going gets tough in the contest.

Whereas, according to Greg Steene, Andries's manager, Andries, who has not been beaten for four years, sees Williamson as just another opponent, Conteh believes

that there could be times in the contest when Andries might need more mental than physical strength to keep pushing.

"Dennis has the capability but he has had a hard time getting the spar. And when you are fighting for a world title you can find yourself in unknown areas," Conteh said. "Like Mugabi against Hagler, after six rounds, Dennis could find himself being dragged into areas he has never known. I shall try to give him the confidence to fight more against himself than Williamson at such times and keep pushing."

Conteh could even be in Andries's corner on the big night, though he will have to get himself a second's licence.

Andries was delighted yesterday to have Conteh on his side.

Williamson, a former United States marine who says his initials stand for "Just Bad", is reputed to be a light puncher but a good boxer. Only eight of his 22 wins in 23 bouts have come from knockouts against those of 16 knockouts in 24 contests. But, according to Andries, he is a better boxer in action, the former national middleweight Golden Gloves champion is difficult to hit cleanly and can put his shots together well. That is why a puncher like Andries, who depends on landing the big one, will need all the mental lift he can get from Conteh.

Even though Andries is

aged 33, his connections believe that, like Archie Moore, he gets better as he gets older. For Andries, who took up boxing at 21 and turned professional at 23, won the British light-heavyweight title at 31, defended it three times and boxed a disputed draw for the European title.

Purses have not been disclosed, but Frank Warren, the promoter, for whom this contest is the first of a series of world title bouts he will be putting on in Europe and Britain this year, says that Williamson will be getting "very much more" than the \$25,000 he earned for outpointing Prince Mama Mohamed, of Ghana, for the title vacated by Michael Spinks.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Connors delays

New York (Reuters) — Jimmy Connors, suspended for 10 weeks and fined \$20,000 for walking off court during a match, said yesterday he would consult his lawyer before deciding what action to take.

Connors, who has 30 days to appeal against the suspension by the Men's International Professional Tennis Council, said: "I will review the decision with my attorney. At this point I can only concentrate on my tennis."

The American, rate over a line call against him, walked out during the fifth set of the final of a tournament in Boca Raton, Florida, last month against Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia. He was immediately fined \$5,000 by an MPTC official.

Ice spectacle

Debi Thomas, the 19-year-old American who won the women's world ice skating title in Geneva last week, is in an impressive parade for the St Ives gala of world champions at Richmond on April 1.

Miss Thomas is joined by her compatriot Tiffany Chin, the bronze medalist, and former world champion and Olympic gold medal winner, Katerina Witt of East Germany.



Connors: seeing lawyer

Colombia 'yes'

Colombia have become the first South American country to accept an invitation to compete in the National Dairy Council Milk Race from May 25 to June 7. The Colombian cyclists will travel to Britain after competing in the Warsaw-Berlin-Prague Peace Race. The 1,150-mile Milk Race will start in Birmingham and finish at London's Waterloo Bridge.

Race havoc

Frank Pong's Maiden Hong Kong edged ahead of arch rival 40-foot sloop, Bimblegumbe, skippered by Australian Keith Jacobs, as communication problems caused havoc in the Silk Cut South China Sea Race. Electric storms and force six winds which forced three boats to retire continued to pose problems.

Postponed

Last night's Slalom Lager Championship Rugby League game between Bradford Northern and Warrington was postponed until tonight because the Odsal pitch was waterlogged.

Pelen quits

Paris (Reuters) — Perrine Pelen, France's top woman skier of the last decade, has confirmed she is retiring from international competition, the French Skiing Federation said yesterday. Pelen, who is in Canada for the final World Cup events of the season, told officials and team-mates she wanted to return to her studies to be a physiotherapist.

Cash drive

Britain's young assistant professional golfers have been given a huge boost for their championship later this year. The car manufacturers, Peugeot Talbot, have stepped in to provide £23,000 in prize money for the assistant professionals' championship, making it the richest in its 37-year history.

Charity bouts

Two amateur boxing teams from England and Belgium meet in a charity tournament in London today in an attempt to raise £10,000 for charity. A south-east London team and a Brussels select meet in a 10-bout contest at the social club of Alders of Croydon, with money raised going towards the retail trade charity's linen and woollen drapers' cottage-homes.

Full strength

Nottingham will be at full strength for their delayed John Player Cup Rugby Union quarter-final with Wasps on Good Friday, if their wing, Chris Oti, comes safely through a game for English Students against Welsh Students at Cambridge today.

SWIMMING

Dr Jones aims for two more titles

Alyson Jones, the 29-year-old doctor from Harrow, takes to the water again this weekend for a spell of competition which could decide whether she will mount a serious attempt for a place in the Commonwealth Games squad for Edinburgh.

Dr Jones will be the oldest competitor taking part in the Hewlett-Packard national short course championships at Barnet Copthall, Hendon, from Good Friday to Easter Monday. She will be aiming to add the 50 and 100 metres freestyle titles to the long course versions she won in Leeds in August, her first national titles.

At Barnet she will be facing Nicole Bates, of Norwich, who was only a year old when Dr Jones won a bronze medal in England's freestyle relay team in the 1974 Commonwealth Games in Christchurch.

Nine swimmers who were victorious at last year's championships are expected to defend their titles, including the double Olympic medal winner, Sarah Hardcastle. As part of her busy programme she defends her 400 and 800 metres freestyle, and 400 metres medley titles, as does the European breaststroke champion, Adrian Moorhouse (100 and 200).

The local pair, Mark Matthews (100 and 200 metres backstroke) and Mark Reynolds (50, 100 and 200 metres freestyle), will be hoping to add the short course titles to the long course titles they won in August in Leeds.

Smith in warning over ban reprieve

From Stuart Jones, Tbilisi, Soviet Union

John Smith, the chairman of Liverpool, is convinced that the door to Europe should remain locked for at least another two years. The ban on English clubs was imposed, originally indefinitely, after his own club was caught in the tragic riot that preceded the European Cup Final in Brussels last May.

Smith, here for today's international between the Soviet Union and England, would, in effect, prefer to keep Liverpool out of the three continental competitions until at least 1992. Once the European authorities have decided to invite English clubs back from the wilderness, Liverpool were ordered to qualify for another three seasons before their own banishment is to be lifted.

While other misguided figures at the head of the domestic game are pleading impatiently for readmission, Smith presented a relevant and sensible case against it. As the chairman also of the Sports Council, he takes a broader view and, yesterday in Tbilisi, he spoke with the weighty voice of reason.

"There is no way that English clubs should be allowed back into Europe yet," he said. "It is too soon. There must be a longer period of penance. Even more importantly, our public is not psychologically ready. We need a longer period out of European competition to break the habit of people travelling abroad for violent purposes."

"We cannot inflict havoc on our fellow communities in Europe in the name of football. No game is worth that. It is true that other countries have as much, if not more, unrest in



Smith: voice of reason

their football matches but the difference is that we alone export our hooliganism. I am disturbed that one or two influential people in English football are pressing for the ban to be lifted.

"They are obsessed with the short term considerations. An early return would inflict irreparable damage on our game in the long term. If our clubs were to play in Europe next season, there would certainly be trouble and we would be thrown out for ever."

"While we have reduced hooliganism in our grounds to a minimum, there is still awful trouble in the streets away from the heavy policing, a lot of which is being kept quiet. We at Liverpool are among those proving that it is possible to succeed financially without European revenue. Our game is good. Look at the 38,000 against Oxford."

"We are always conscious of the need to balance our budget. It is a good discipline for the clubs to have to get their finances in order. Then, when we do return to Europe, the extra income will come as a bonus which we can invest for the good of the game's future to improve facilities for example."

"There is no chance of the ban being lifted for a while unless those influential figures in English football persist in their campaign to get us back in. Even then they would probably not succeed. I would hope that they would not. There are some elements in Europe who might want as back purely on financial grounds. That is wrong."

"I would hope that even if the opportunity was offered, we would be responsible and decline. That would be honorable and would restore a little credit to English football. Don't misunderstand me. I love European football and, at Liverpool, we have a wonderful tradition in that respect."

"But we should not even consider the ban being lifted in less than three years. I'm speaking as chairman of Liverpool and of the Sports Council. I'm concerned not only with football's image and its future but also with the good name and reputation of our country."

England preview, page 38.